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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

On a scale of 1 to 5, rate you're level of satisfaction in how the local police solves crimes.

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ASIA



Osama bin Laden spent his last weeks in a house divided and riven by suspicions. **► PAGE 22**

OFFBEAT



A McNugget that resembles George Washington sells for \$8,100. **► PAGE 24**

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY



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» PSS pays \$3K for main office reconnection
» Classes resume in all public schools today

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Due to the continued surge in oil prices in the world market, utility customers will be facing another likely increase in their monthly bills, according to a Commonwealth Utilities Corp. official.

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Romney's son visits Saipan to drum up Republican support for his father

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Leading Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney has sent his son Matt Romney to Saipan to help secure nine delegate votes from the CNMI as the race to the White House heats up. Local Republicans said this is the first time in CNMI history that a presidential campaign has visited the islands.

Matt Romney and his wife Laurie arrived on Saipan last

night and will meet today with the Republican Party of the NMI Association chairman Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and the rest of the leadership to drum up support for Mitt Romney.

This meeting comes on the eve of the CNMI Republican Party's caucus tomorrow to elect six of the nine delegates to the Republican National Convention to help pick the challenger for President Barack Obama of the Democratic Party.

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Romney

Senate kills casino bill, again

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

After a lengthy and heated debate, the Senate killed late Wednesday night a controversial House bill legalizing casino gambling on

Saipan, some two years since senators rejected a similar proposal in 2010 and five years since Saipan voters rejected the idea for the second time.

The four-month-old House Bill 17-240 was
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CLARISSA V. DAVID

'WELCOME TO SAIPAN'

Windsong, a 51-ft ketch built in Taiwan in 1977, and *Rendezvous* (partially hidden behind Windsong), a Cal 2-46, arrived Monday after a 34-day voyage from Hawaii. The two motor sailboats stayed for a couple of days at the Smiling Cove Marina for a breather after a 34-day voyage from Hawaii. Bill and Charlie McMillan, Allen Creighton, and Ryan Grady are seen at left.

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PHOTO BY MARK THIESSEN/NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

Explorer and filmmaker James Cameron emerges from the hatch of *Deepsea Challenger* during testing of the submersible in Jervis Bay, south of Sydney, Australia. In the coming weeks, the vessel will travel to the bottom of the Mariana Trench and is the centerpiece of *Deepsea Challenge*, a joint scientific project by Cameron, the National Geographic Society and Rolex to conduct deep-ocean research.

Titanic director to dive into Marianas Trench

Filmmaker and National Geographic explorer-in-residence James Cameron will attempt to reach the world's deepest point, the Mariana Trench, nearly 7 miles (11.2 km) beneath the ocean's surface, in the coming weeks.

Cameron's dive in his specially designed submersible marks the launch of *Deepsea Challenge*,

a joint scientific project by Cameron, the National Geographic Society, and Rolex to conduct deep-ocean research and exploration to expand knowledge and understanding of these largely unknown parts of the planet.

Cameron's historic *Deepsea Challenge* expedition will be the first extensive scientific exploration by a manned vehicle to the

Mariana Trench's lowest point, the Challenger Deep. Cameron plans to spend six hours at the bottom of the Pacific Ocean trench, some 200 miles (322 km) southwest of Guam, to collect samples for research in

marine biology, microbiology, astrophysics, marine geology and geophysics.

Relying on advanced engineering and tech-

nologies created by Cameron and his team, successful field tests were completed this week off the coast of Papua New Guinea. They included untethered deep-water dives—including one to a depth of more than 5 miles (more than 8 km)—in the revolutionary, single-pilot *Deepsea Challenger* submersible, the result of an eight-year effort.

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Russian tourists fall pray to burglar

A Russian family who went sightseeing Wednesday afternoon at Tank Beach in Kagman III became the latest victim of beach burglars.

The tourists lost an Olympus waterproof camera worth \$500, sunglasses worth \$100, a toy car collection valued at over \$500, a turtle handicraft souvenir worth \$10, and three hotel room keys and towel cards.

Police officer Jason Tarkong said yesterday that witnesses saw a black 1990 Toyota Hilux pickup parked near Tank Beach before the crime was committed. The pickup was gone when the tourists discovered the burglary, he said.

Tarkong said the 25-year-old Russian man with his family went to the beach on Wednesday at 2pm aboard a rented 2009 Toyota Camry. The family locked the car as they took pictures at the beach for about 15 minutes.

When they returned to their car, they noticed that the vehicle's rear window was broken and their personal items were missing.

The Department of Public Safety and Crime Stoppers are seeking help from the public. Contact the Crime Stoppers hotline at 234-7272 should you want

to remain anonymous or use its website at www.nmicrimestoppers.net. Crime Stoppers pays up to \$1,000 for any information leading to an arrest.

Crimes against tourists have been significantly increasing.

In October 2011, a Japanese couple who went sightseeing at Ladder Beach fell prey to a thief or thieves who took their valuables and other items.

Last Oct. 19, a car rented by a Norwegian tourist was burglarized at Ladder Beach.

A day prior to the Ladder Beach burglary, an unidentified man robbed an elderly Japanese couple who were playing golf at Mariana Country Club in Marpi.

On Oct. 10, an unidentified man also robbed a 51-year-old female who was with her daughter playing golf at Coral Ocean Point.

Last Oct. 11, an unidentified man armed with a screwdriver robbed a Russian female tourist and ran off with her rented car at Suicide Cliff in Marpi. The tourist lost her bag containing over \$100 cash, \$1,200 worth of digital camera, hotel keys, some documents, and other items.

Of these cases, only one was reportedly solved. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

CUC warns limited water, possible outage due to a nearly empty tank

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. yesterday warned hundreds of its customers in Chalan Kiya, Fina Sisu, and Northern Marianas College of limited water supply after its crew found out that the Kannat Tabla water tank is nearly empty.

Affected residents were warned of possible water shortages and/or outages beginning yesterday.

Early Thursday morning, CUC water operations crew discovered that the Kannat Tabla tank was nearly empty due to an operational problem. Immediate steps were taken to correct the system problems but more time is needed to refill the tank.

In a statement, CUC said that it has been working to increase

water hours throughout Saipan with its goal to achieve 24-hour service all over the Commonwealth this year. Part of this effort, CUC said, is to move water between system zones to various tanks. The goal is to operate the water system by having customers served by the water stored in CUC tanks and not direct-feed from wells.

Unfortunately, CUC said this sequencing process failed with the Kannat Tabla tank, preventing it from being refilled Wednesday night. "CUC has taken immediate steps to correct the deficiencies. However, there will be shortages and possible outages in this very large service area," added the statement. (*Moneth Deposa*)

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Fund recovers \$228K in overpaid, underpaid benefits

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

NMI Retirement Fund internal auditor Rima Yamagishi reported yesterday that the agency successfully collected \$228,000 from its members who received overpayments and underpayments of benefits from February 2010 to February 2012.

She revealed that \$433,000 more could be potentially recouped by the cash-strapped agency once the internal desk audit is completed.

Board trustee chair Sixto K. Igisomar said that since the internal audit began more than a year ago, it has helped boost the Fund's revenue collection following the discovery of improper payouts and refunds to members and beneficiaries.

With only two members on the auditing team, he instructed the possible hiring of additional personnel to expedite the review of

all necessary files and documents and boost the recovery of funds.

On top of the collection for underpayment and overpayment of benefits, some \$78,000 was also recouped from the single audits conducted by the team in other areas, said Yamagishi.

One of the biggest potential recoveries she cited was

the audit for overtime computation on employees where the team had already completed phase 1.

"We determined that if pensions [of affected employees are] adjusted, it will yield an annual cash flow saving of

\$300,000 for the Fund," she told the board, recommending that since the amounts involved in this area are "big," a collection agency may be tapped to do the work for the agency.

Yamagishi said that 120 overtime computation files have been reviewed and more are up for review, which will take time. She revealed that the team initially came across over a thousand files in its initial assessment.

No complete separation from govt

Yamagishi disclosed findings of

two individuals who refunded their contributions but did not separate from government service, a violation of the law that requires 60-day separation from government.

She said the Fund had advised these persons to return the refunds they got. One of the two was reportedly ordered to repay \$19,944.

Igisomar instructed Fund administrator Richard Villagomez to give these persons a deadline to meet the one-time lump sum repayment.

According to Villagomez, the Fund has no other way of knowing if a member who refunded their contributions

is still in government service other than to check if they continue to pay their employee contributions.

According to Yamagishi, "we started to see scenarios where we completed the separation but there is a new contract the following day. So there's really

no separation."

The auditor also discovered that there are some surviving children with disabilities who are receiving annuity beyond the age set by regulation. Of the 14 files reviewed so far, one was found improperly receiving this benefit. As single and group audits are ongoing, additional cases and potential recoveries are expected.

» Internal audit reveals \$433K potentially recoverable

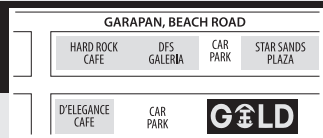
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TITANIC

From Page 1

gineering effort and the deepest-diving manned marine vehicle in existence.

The public will be able to follow Cameron's progress on the expedition at www.DEEPSEACHALLENGE.com; on Twitter by following @Deep-Challenge or using #deepseachallenge; or on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/deepseachallenge>.

"The deep trenches are the last unexplored frontier on our planet, with sci-

entific riches enough to fill a hundred years of exploration," Cameron said. "National Geographic, which has been exploring the world for nearly 125 years, is the ideal partner to help usher in a new era of deep-ocean research and exploration that supports leading scientific institutions in answering questions about the deepest, unexplored parts of the Earth. Our goal is to build a scientific legacy for generations to come. It's also to inspire people across the globe to celebrate exploration and to explore with us online and through the media we produce."

The Challenger Deep has only been reached once in a manned descent, on Jan. 23, 1960, by U.S. Navy Lt. Don Walsh and Swiss oceanographer Jacques Piccard in the bathyscaphe *Trieste*. They spent approximately 20 minutes on the ocean floor before returning to the surface. Now, 52 years later, Cameron's *Deepsea Challenger* represents breakthroughs in materials science, unique approaches to structural engineering, and new ways of imaging through an ultra-small, full ocean depth-rated stereoscopic camera.

In 1960, an experimental Rolex

Deepsea Special watch was attached to the hull of the *Trieste* and emerged in perfect working order after withstanding the huge pressure exerted at 6.78 miles (nearly 11 km) below the surface. The *Deepsea Challenger* submersible will carry a new experimental wristwatch, the Rolex Deepsea Challenge, strapped to its manipulator arm, renewing the pioneering engineering challenge the Swiss watchmaker took up 52 years ago with the *Trieste*.

Cameron was named a National Geographic Explorer-in-Residence in 2011. While working on his film *Titanic*, he took 12 submersible dives to the famed shipwreck two and a half miles down in the North Atlantic. The technical success of that expedition led Cameron to form Earthship Productions, which develops films about ocean exploration and conservation. Since then

he has led six expeditions, authored a forensic study of the *Bismarck* wreck site and done extensive 3-D imaging of deep hydrothermal vent sites along the Mid-Atlantic Ridge, the East Pacific Rise, and the Sea of Cortez. Cameron has made 72 deep submersible dives, including 33 to *Titanic*. Fifty-one of these dives were in Russian Mir submersibles to depths of up to 3.03 miles (4.87 km).

Cameron has written and directed numerous films, among them *Avatar*, *Titanic*, *True Lies*, *Terminator I* and 2, *The Abyss*, and *Aliens*. His films have blazed new trails in visual effects and have set numerous performance records, both domestically and abroad, including 11 Oscars for *Titanic*. *Avatar*, a 3-D science fiction epic reflecting five years of development of new production technologies, was nominated for nine Oscars and won three. (PR)

ROMNEY

From Page 1

Although the CNMI delegates are "unbound," meaning they are not obligated to vote for a particular candidate at the Republican National Convention, sources in the party said the delegates from the Commonwealth are poised to support Romney.

Mitt Romney has so far garnered 415 delegates, still less than half of the 1,144 delegates needed to win the Republican presidential nomination so his campaign is reaching out to far-flung U.S. territories such as the CNMI and Guam.

Fitial and the Republican Party of the NMI Association announced Matt Romney and his wife's visit yesterday afternoon.

The party said the Romneys' visit is in anticipation of the caucus on Saipan, Tinian and Rota from 7am to 7pm tomorrow.

"I encourage our brothers and sisters in the NMI and across the United States to extend a warm *Hafa Adai* to Mr. and Mrs. Romney," Fitial said.

The governor said that Republicans throughout the CNMI "are very excited for this opportunity to meet and speak

with Matt Romney and his wife."

"While our brothers and sisters in the Continental United States are used to seeing the campaigns front and center, this is the first time our beautiful islands have been visited by a presidential campaign from either party. As a community full of proud Republicans, we are so honored to welcome Mr. Romney and his wife," he said.

During his recent trip to Washington, D.C. for the National Governors Association meetings, Fitial said he "heard first-hand the message from Governor Romney about the importance of a smaller, simpler, and smarter government.

"The Commonwealth can certainly appreciate that sentiment," he said. "We are so glad that Governor Romney felt it was so important to see first-hand how the federal government run amok can hurt fellow Americans that he sent his son to hear from the people of the NMI personally in order to understand and report on the challenges we face here in the Pacific."

Fitial added that he is looking forward to leading the full slate of RPNMIA delegates to the Republican National Convention in Tampa, Florida in August.

After Saipan, the Romneys will be headed for Guam where they will also

drum up support for Mitt Romney.

The Republicans' delegate election will be held at the Carolinian Utt in Garapan, Saipan. On Tinian, it will be held at the Tinian Youth Center in San Jose. On Rota, it will be at the Rota Republican Party Headquarters.

Kodep Ogumoro-Uludong, the person-in-charge of the Republican Party of the NMI Association's 2012 delegate elections, said election will be open to all registered Republicans in the CNMI.

He said Republicans will vote for six of the nine delegates to the national convention. However, there will also be six alternates to ensure a complete slate of delegates.

They will be joined at the national convention by Fitial as party chairman, national committeeman Bo Palacios, and national committeewoman Viola Alepuyo.

The NMI Republican Party received official recognition from the national organization in 2004.

Other U.S. insular areas, such as American Samoa, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, and Puerto, will also have at least nine delegates each to the national convention. In 2008, Republican delegates from the CNMI endorsed Sen. John McCain.

SENATE

From Page 1

defeated by a vote of 6-2 vote with one absence during a Senate session that wrapped up at past 9:30pm.

Senate floor leader Pete Reyes (R-Saipan) and Sen. Luis Crisostimo (Ind-Saipan) spoke at length about their strong support for the bill, introduced by Rep. Ralph Demapan (Cov-Saipan) and Rep. Stanley Torres (Ind-Saipan), but they were eclipsed by those opposing it.

Those who voted to reject the Saipan casino bill were Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota), Senate Vice President Jude Hofschneider (R-Tinian), Sen. Frank Cruz (R-Tinian), Sen. Juan M. Ayuyu (Ind-Rota), Sen. Henry San Nicolas (Cov-Tinian), and Sen. Jovita Taimanao (Ind-Rota). Sen. Ralph Torres (R-Saipan) was absent.

The casino bill was not even on the agenda but Cruz made a motion to place it on calendar during the session.

Reyes said he knew that the intent of Cruz's motion was to immediately "kill" the casino bill rather than deliberate on it.

"I was hoping there will be intelligent discussion and deliberation. But it's a numbers game," Reyes told *Saipan Tribune*.

Cruz said he continues to believe that Saipan voters should be given the opportunity to decide whether they want casino gambling legalized on their island. "All this time I have been saying this should be up to the Saipan voters whether they want it or not. Ask them again," he said.

Cruz said if some lawmakers believe that a casino industry will help revive the CNMI economy, they should instead help develop the Tinian and Rota casino industries.

Saipan voters had already twice rejected a casino initiative.

Reyes said most of the senators were alluding to the Senate resolution, which he sponsored, that blocks any attempt to legalize casino gambling on Saipan.

But Reyes said "times have changed." He said at the time he sponsored the resolution, the problems at the Commonwealth Health Center, the NMI Retirement Fund, the Public School System and other programs were not at a crisis level.

"Now, the hospital is in ICU [intensive care unit]. We need to change with time. We continue to act like a crisis Legislature. We act only when there's crisis. We're not pro-active. We never prevented a crisis. We cannot continue to be stubborn," Reyes said.

Manglona also spoke at length about other ways to generate revenue and help revive the economy, including proposals to reduce tax rebates, amend Article 12 or the land alienation provision of the NMI Constitution, and setting aside 25 percent of general fund for the Retirement Fund.

The Senate president said a Macau-based Asian gaming consultant who visited Saipan last year said the CNMI cannot expect to generate revenue from a casino industry right away.

Manglona said as far as he can remember, the casino expert projected that once the industry kicks off the ground, the annual revenue could only be \$7 million, when the NMI Retirement Fund alone needs some \$400 million.

"So are we going to sit back knowing that a casino bill is already passed? No. This is why the Senate leadership wants the Legislature and the Executive Branch to work together to look at other things such as repealing Article 12 and improving revenue collection efforts," he said.

Reyes said those who support a casino industry will not be stopping at passing the casino bill.

The casino expert Manglona was referring to was Ben Lee, managing partner of IGamiX Management & Consulting Ltd., who had said that Saipan should start small if it wants a casino industry established, and the island should be ready to face stiff competition from Asian destinations with established casino industries such as Macau, Korea, Singapore, Cambodia, and the Philippines.

But Lee had said that despite the competition, a casino industry is "what Saipan needs, I believe, to give tourism a much needed boost right now."

Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos, in a separate interview yesterday, said the Senate must have a reason to reject the casino bill, but asked whether the Senate has alternative ideas to boost the CNMI economy.

"The idea was for that bill to generate revenue so if they just killed the bill, then what alternative legislation or initiative do they recommend to generate revenue?" Inos asked.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and Rep. Froilan Tenorio were sharp in their criticism of the Senate's rejection of the casino measure at a time when the CNMI is in financial crisis and no new revenue-generating industry to speak of besides tourism.

The governor said the senators' rejection of the bill is "irresponsible," while Tenorio said the senators who rejected the bill are "crazy."

CUC

From Page 1

Charles Warren, CUC's chief financial and administrative officer, described the possibility of a power rate hike as "very, very likely."

The Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission established a new LEAC tariff in a meeting in January.

Warren disclosed that even without the commission, the utilities firm can make the necessary adjustment because the January tariff allows an automatic adjustment of the leveled energy adjustment clause that will not exceed 4.5 percent of the current LEAC rate.

The present rate is \$0.30550 per kWh—and 4.5 percent of that rate is equivalent to 12 to 15 cents of the current rate. LEAC is part of the customer's bill that reflects the cost of fuel. The other element of the bill is the electric base rate.

"We're very close [to the threshold]. We're within 3,000 of a penny at present. So, it's very, very likely that we will have an increase in LEAC for April bills if the market trend doesn't change," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

He pointed out, though, that the "automatic adjustment" authorized under the January LEAC tariff includes both an "increase and reduction" of the rate.

Warren said that CUC is closely monitoring oil prices everyday because any decision to increase or reduce the LEAC rate will depend on the data until the end this month. "We will have the final figures after the March data. We will do the calculation and we will certainly follow all the rules that CPUC

set up in the tariff," he said.

No filing is needed for the new adjustment once it is finalized and justified. CUC just needs to announce it once the adjustment is finalized. However, once the CPUC is reestablished, it will review the adjusted rate.

Warren indicated that in the last couple of weeks, gasoline stations on island have raised their fuel prices about three times already compared to CUC, which has yet to adjust one.

Saipan Tribune learned that due to a lack of funds, CUC can only afford to buy a one-week supply of fuel for about \$1.4 million.

Warren emphasized the importance of collecting the agency's receivables because it funds both the fuel and operation of the agency's utilities: water, power, and wastewater systems.

As of this week, he cited about \$8.7 million in receivables from CUC's three biggest customers: the central government, public schools, and the public hospital.

Warren said that beside fuel expenses, a sizable portion of receivables is used to buy repair and maintenance items for power plants, water wells, and wastewater systems. "We are just one broken engine away from the same catastrophe we had four years ago, and we're trying to avoid that," he added.

PSS pays \$3K

CUC executive director Abe Utu Malae confirmed yesterday that PSS made a small payment of \$3,000 yesterday for the restoration of power to the PSS central office.

Acting education commissioner

Glenn Muña announced in a statement that Hopwood Junior High School, Koblerville Elementary School, and Tanapag Elementary School will resume classes today. These were among the schools affected by the power disconnections on Tuesday due to unpaid utility bills. The rest of public schools resumed classes Wednesday.

Malae disclosed that he and at least six education officials led by Board of Education chair Marylou Ada and Muña met to discuss the disconnected accounts.

"PSS and CUC met to carve out the Main Office account from those disconnected. PSS will pay the outstanding invoices in fiscal year 2012 for that office and CUC will restore power to it. The outstanding for the main office is about \$27,000," Malae said.

He expressed himself pleased with the results of the meeting. "I was pleased to see the key decision makers from PSS at the meeting because we also got to speak about other matters of mutual interest. PSS has done a marvelous job of conserving water and electricity. Furthermore, the Department of Public Works has given the green light on connecting renewable energy source to four schools; another two will follow once Public Works approves the grounding of the service connection," he said.

Malae said that CUC restored electricity to offices of several schools Wednesday because the water re-circulating pumps were powered through the offices. CUC may not disconnect water to any school for public health reasons.

Two sailboats arrive after a 34-day voyage from Hawaii

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

Two motor sailboats left CNMI waters yesterday after docking for a couple of days at the Smiling Cove Marina for a breather after a 34-day voyage from Hawaii.

Husband and wife Bill and Charlie McMillan, who are repeat visitors in the Commonwealth, arrived on *Rendezvous*, a Cal 2-46 which the former described as a great boat for the islands. First-timers Allen Creighton and Ryan Grady turned up aboard *Windsong*, a 51-ft ketch built in Taiwan in 1977.

The four, who met in Hawaii over a month ago, traveled and arrived on Monday around noon from Hawaii after 34 days of sea voyage. They left for Guam yesterday morning.

The McMillans, fondly known by many as Mac and Charlie, first visited Saipan in 1996. "We always enjoy coming to Saipan. It's just great," said Mac, a retired National Weather Survey employee.

Visits to the CNMI, Mac said, would involve going to Pagan. He added that they plan to visit again in June, during which they plan to stay in the northern island for a week.

Having visited several Pacific islands such as Yap and Palau, Mac noted that they enjoy Saipan the best. "There's just something about Saipan that's so nice," he said, adding that Smiling Cove Marina is simply "fantastic."

Throughout their stay on island, Mac said they would wake up and find various offerings like a woven hat or local fruits outside their boat. A few hours after docking and Charlie said they already got invited to different island-style gatherings. "It's just super and we really enjoy it," said Mac, who was disappointed to find out that his favorite restaurant, Oleai Beach Bar & Grill, closed down.

Still, the beauty of the island never fails to captivate Mac and Charlie, who both agreed that the warmth and hospitality of the residents add more charm to Saipan. Mac recognized Customs director Jesus Muna who was accommodating to them during clearance.

Charlie, for her part, revealed that Saipan is also special for two other reasons. First, she and Mac got engaged at the Hyatt in 1997. Also, her father was among those who landed during the Guam invasion, making the historical features of Saipan

"very fond" to them.

The couple, who have sailed halfway around the world, plans to be back on island in June.

Seeing Saipan for the first time, the Australia native Creighton described it as a "beautiful" and "magical place."

It was also Creighton's maiden voyage on *Windsong*. After leaving his career developing and managing companies, Creighton purchased his "girlfriend" and worked on it for eight months.

"I always had this thing for the ocean," said Creighton. He plans to stay in Guam for about a month of repairs before sailing his way to Southeast Asia.

During their visit to Saipan, the sailing aficionados met with some members of the Marianas Sailing Club.



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Tinian seeks to create quality assurance label for agri products

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Tinian Mayor's Office has launched a pilot project that will promote the products of local farmers, their crops, and the island's agriculture industry in general.

The Tinian Home Grown fruits and vegetable project seeks to invest in the health of the community by supporting local farmers with their production of fruits and vegetables, providing residents with safe and high quality food products grown on Tinian.

"We need to ensure that our crops are safe to eat, as well as promote Tinian quality products," said Tinian Mayor Ramon M. Dela Cruz. "We need

to find ways to support our local economy and I believe supporting the agricultural industry is one way to do so."

Special labels will be created for farmers who will participate in the Tinian Home Grown project and are found in compliance with regulations of the Division of Environmental Quality.

Dela Cruz, who is working with DEQ on the project, got together with several stakeholders for an introductory meeting at his conference room last March 1. Among those present were Lino Lizama, Marie San Nicolas, Zhang Bi Xi, Ramon Apostol, Bert Gapasin, Qing

Ying Zheng, Ray Dela Cruz, Jr., Eugenio Villagomez, Juan Ignacio, and Melinda Cunanan.

Representatives of the Bureau of Environmental Health, Department of Commerce, Northern Marianas College – Cooperative Research Extension and Education Service, Department of Lands and Natural Resources, Department of Public Safety, and the Department of Finance were also at the meeting.

The group identified the lack of a full-time extension agent on Tinian as the "greatest need" for program participants. Such an agent can provide ongoing

education on best practices and bridge the gap between demand from buyers and supply from growers.

Inconsistency or unavailability of farm equipment as well as high water and utility rates also keep homegrown products from being affordable.

The mayor expressed hope that the project will succeed in encouraging the agriculture industries on Saipan and Rota to follow suit. "I look forward to the day when we see safe-to-eat, high-quality, Tinian Home Grown fruits and vegetables on the shelves of grocery stores not only on Tinian, but also Saipan and Guam," said Dela Cruz.

Reina Camacho, DEQ Pesticide and Storage Tank Branch

manager, said the project's working group will convene at least once a month. "At the end of the month, participants will initiate the education component for pesticide safety and use," said Camacho, adding that the group will look for funds to obtain pesticide residue test kits as its "product assurance."

DEQ director Frank Rabauliman said in a statement that their agency supports Dela Cruz's efforts to reward individuals or companies that are in full compliance with the "Tinian Home Grown" label.

"I am hopeful he and the team will be sharing their model of success with others in the agriculture industry," he added.

Trader in arson case wants new trial

The owner of a clothing store in Garapan that went up in flames in 2010 wants a new trial in its lawsuit against an insurance company that refused to pay the insurance claims after establishing that the blaze was intentionally set off.

Zhen Rui Brother Corp., through counsel Ramon K. Quichocho, asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to hold a new trial in its lawsuit against FirstNet Insurance Co. Zhen Rui Brother Corp. is the owner of BL Clothing Store that was engulfed in fire on Oct. 30, 2010.

Quichocho said a court security officer breached the bailiff's oath by allowing another court security officer to take charge of the jury and to communicate with the jury.

Quichocho also argued that the verdict was contrary to the weight of the evidence and supports the claim of Zhen Rui

Brother Corp. for a new trial. "In this case, there is no evidence presented by anybody that Zhen Rui Brother Corp. or Mr. Zheng Biao had a motive to set the Oct. 30, 2010 fire, nor that Zhen Rui Brother Corp. through its agents either set the fire or had it set," the lawyer said.

Last month, a federal jury found that on Oct. 30, 2010, either Zhen Rui Brother Corp. intentionally caused the fire at BL Clothing Store or someone with the permission of the corporation intentionally caused the blaze.

The jury also found that Zhen Rui Brother Corp. intentionally overstated to FirstNet the actual cash value of its loss in the fire.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona discharged FirstNet Insurance Co. from any obligation to Zhen Rui Brother Corp. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

Interior chief awards \$46M in historic preservation grants

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Interior Secretary Ken Salazar announced yesterday \$46.9 million in historic preservation grants to the 50 States, the District of Columbia, the U.S. territories, and three affiliated Pacific island states.

Of the amount, the CNMI will get \$410,831; Guam will receive \$409,123; American Samoa, \$396,261; U.S. Virgin Islands, \$415,115; Puerto Rico, \$645,071; Federated States of Micronesia, \$412,161; Palau, \$238,866; and Marshall Islands, \$238,866.

The grants will enable the states to preserve and protect our nation's historic sites without expending tax dollars.

"National Preservation Grants invest revenue from oil and gas development into telling the story of America by enabling the people of each state and territory the opportunity to preserve the places that are unique to their heritage," Secretary Salazar said. "These grants leverage private investments in historic preservation activities and help spur tourism, create jobs, and build pride in communities across the nation."

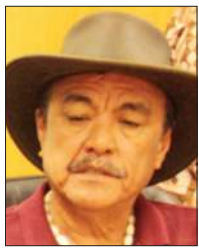
The Historic Preservation Fund is supported by revenue from federal oil leases on the Outer Continental Shelf. The National Park Service admin-

isters the fund and uses the majority of appropriated funds to distribute matching grants to State and Tribal Historic Preservation Officers.

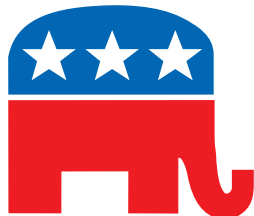
"Throughout the country, historic preservation fund grants and other federal historic preservation programs help sustain and revitalize communities," Director of the National Park Service Jonathan B. Jarvis said. "Historic preservation promotes heritage tourism and can transform under-utilized and often-vacant historic buildings into revenue-generators for local economies. The National Park Service is honored to be invited into so many communities and is proud to assist in saving and sharing history."

States officials use the grants to fund preservation projects, such as survey and inventory, National Register nominations, preservation education, architectural planning, historic structure reports, community preservation plans, and bricks-and-mortar repair to buildings.

Grants and programs funded by the HPF encourage private and nonfederal investment in historic preservation efforts nationwide. For more information on the Historic Preservation Fund, visit: <http://www.nps.gov/history/hps/hpg/index.htm>. (*DOI*)



Dela Cruz



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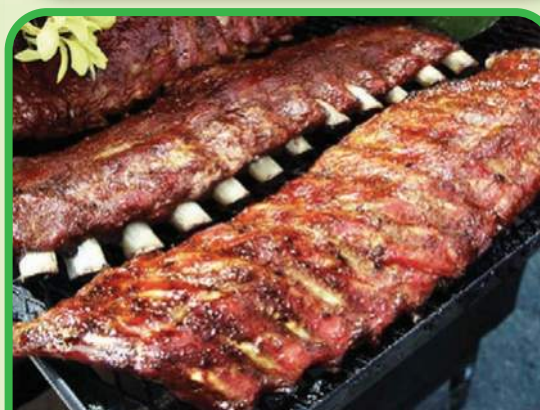
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Kilili invites Tinian residents to town hall meeting

CNMI Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan will host a town hall meeting for residents of Tinian on Monday, March 12, 2012, from 6pm to 8pm at the Tinian Elementary School cafeteria.

Sablan is encouraging all residents of Tinian to attend the forum, where he will discuss legislation and issues that relate to the Northern Mariana Islands, which are being considered in the nation's capital.

The congressman will also field questions and comments

from meeting participants about matters that affect them, the Tinian community, or the CNMI as a whole.

Tinian Mayor Ramon M. Delacruz and members of the Tinian Legislative Delegation have been invited to attend the town hall meeting.

Sablan's Town Hall meetings are just one part of his efforts to be as accessible as possible to all constituents in the Northern Marianas. In addition to these meetings, he attempts to travel to either Tinian or Rota during each of his regu-

lar trips home; his most recent visit to Tinian was during last month's Pika Festival, where he was able to informally talk with dozens of constituents.

The congressman also maintains district offices on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota, where staff members are available to assist residents of the CNMI in person or by telephone.

"I hear on a daily basis from constituents by phone and email," said Sablan, "but there's no substitute for being able to talk face-to-face and engage in a back-and-forth dis-

cussion, which is why I spend as much time as the congressional schedule allows, in the Northern Marianas."

For more information about the Tinian town hall meeting, or about the assistance or services that the congressman's office can provide, contact your local district office (Saipan: (670) 323-2647, Tinian: (670) 433-2647, Rota: (670) 532-2647) or the Washington DC office ((202) 225-2646 or (877) 446-3465) or email Kilili@mail.house.gov. (PR)

Delta named major sponsor of 2012 Flame Tree Arts Festival



Delta Air Lines sales and marketing representatives Esther Sound, fifth right, and Chris A. Concepcion, third right, present two Economy Class round trip tickets to Arts Council executive director Angel S. Hocog and festival committee members led by chair Parker Y. Yobei in a brief ceremony at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport on March 1.

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture has announced that Delta Air Lines became their second "Pacifica" sponsor for the 31st Annual Flame Tree Arts Festival celebration in April.

Delta Air Lines donated two Economy Class round-trip tickets to anywhere in the U.S.

Chris A. Concepcion and Esther Sound, Delta Air Lines sales and marketing representatives, were joined by passenger service ground handlers as they presented the donation to festival committee members in a

brief ceremony at their check-in counter at Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport on March 1.

The donation, valued at a little over \$6,500 based on the farthest possible destination in a one-year-maximum-stay fare, makes Delta Air Lines a "Pacifica" or major sponsor for the 31st Annual Flame Tree Arts Festival slated for April 20 to 22 at the Civic Center Park in Susupe.

Pacifica is the highest level of sponsorship for the festival and is given to companies, organizations or individuals who provide monetary or in-kind donation worth \$5,000 or more.

Delta Air Lines operates a

mainline fleet of more than 700 aircrafts and flies to 341 destinations in 61 countries across six continents, serving over 160 million customers around the world each year.

"Delta Air Lines has been a strong supporter of the arts for many years now and we are proud once again to be named title sponsors of the Flame Tree Arts Festival," said Delta's Concepcion. "We wish the organizing committee the best of luck as they prepare for this great event."

Arts Council executive director Angel S. Hocog, for his part, said he is delighted to have Delta Air Lines come on board to support the CNMI's

biggest annual festival celebrating its rich art and cultural heritage.

"Delta Air Lines' sponsorship for the Flame Tree Arts Festival each year shows the company's continued and unparalleled commitment in further developing arts and culture in the CNMI," said Hocog. "We look forward to nurturing this meaningful relationship between the Arts Council and the Delta Air Lines in this year's festival and beyond."

For more information about the festival, visit the Arts Council next to the post office in Capital Hill or call 322-9982 or 83.

nate the fund to the college would benefit all of the citizens of Micronesia by helping educate young men and women from throughout the area. Johnson also noted that steps are underway to restart the group.

The College of Micronesia-FSM Endowment Fund was established by the college and is maintained for the purpose of providing support for the future needs of the college. (COM-FSM)

FSM college receives \$4.6K gift

PALIKIR, Pohnpei—The College of Micronesia-FSM received a gift of \$4,644.66 toward its Endowment Fund from the Friends of Micronesia.

President Wayne Johnson of the Friends of Micronesia organization sent the donation to the college. In his letter to COM-FSM, Johnson expressed his organization's "hope that this will be used in educating the young people of

the islands we remember with great fondness."

The Friends of Micronesia was a group of returned Peace Corps volunteers who served in Micronesia beginning in the late 1960s—when it was still the Trust Territory of the Pacific—to the present day. The purpose of the organization is to represent Micronesia volunteers in the National Peace Corps Asso-

ciation, and to help the work of the Peace Corps in Micronesia as well as the citizens of the FSM.

The organization was recently disbanded but it still had funds remaining in its treasury. It was decided that the funds should be donated to the College of Micronesia-FSM's Endowment Fund. According to Johnson, it was felt that their decision to do-

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Mar. 9, 1999

House will hear out Micronesians on bill

Micronesians who will be impacted by a proposed legislation restricting their stay in the CNMI are welcome to testify at a public hearing scheduled by the House of Representatives next week in efforts to get various views on the plan to change the open migration policy. Local legislators also vowed to forge ahead with the measure despite attempts by the federal government to step in and withhold any CNMI action in light of forthcoming new U.S. regulations on the entry of nationals from the Freely Associated States into its territories. Rep. Melvin Faisao, sponsor of House Bill 11-294 and chair of the Federal and Foreign Relations Committee, said inputs from FAS citizens residing on the island will assist in the drafting of their report to be submitted to the legislative body.

PSS to tap federal money for hiring

The re-authorization of the Higher Education Act (HEA) of the Federal government opens another funding source for the Public School System to recruit and prepare teachers. The HEA offers the opportunity for the states to reexamine their respective institutions of higher learning and their role in preparing teachers. In a letter to Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio, the CNMI was invited to form a local team with members coming from the legislature, a representative from the Governor's Office, the chairman of the legislative education committee and the Commissioner of Education.

Mar. 9, 2000

House clears way for creation of tax body

The House of Representatives yesterday approved legislation proposing the creation of a private sector-led commission tasked to come up with recommendations that will revamp the taxation system in the CNMI. The Tax Fairness and Review Commission will be comprised of five people -- a lawyer, a person holding a master's degree in Business Administration, the director of the Division of Revenue and Taxation or his representative, and two certified public accountants who are nominated by the Saipan Chamber of Commerce. According to the bill sponsored by House Speaker Benigno R. Fitial, these members of the group shall have extensive backgrounds in finance, business and, or taxation.

Govt fast-tracks \$60M bond float

The CNMI government is laying down the groundwork for the expeditious flotation of the tax-exempt \$60 million municipal bond, as finance managers and economic experts review current trends in regional and global economies. The \$60 million bond will be tapped to match available federal funds under the Section 702 of the Covenant, which guarantees U.S. funding for Capital Improvement Projects provided the Commonwealth identifies local matching money. The CNMI government took the step in light of criticisms from Washington D.C. and the U.S. Congress on the Commonwealth's inability to use federal funds earmarked for the CNMI under the Section 702 of the Covenant.

Mar. 9, 2001

Remittances soar 12 pct.

Remittances soared 12 percent last year to over \$73 million from the previous year's \$65 million, preliminary reports from the Banking and Insurance Division of the Department of Commerce disclosed. The 12-percent increase was recorded even without the fourth quarter report of two companies, which are still finalizing their statements that are up for submission at the commerce department. Officials attribute the increase in remittances to the sharp rise of the Philippine peso's value against the US dollar, which broke the P50-\$1 level at the height of the impeachment trial of former President Joseph Estrada in the last quarter of last year.

CPA explores new markets

The Commonwealth Ports Authority is mapping out an effective approach to help existing carriers develop new markets, in efforts to revive the islands' slumping tourism industry. The Air Service Committee of the Strategic Economic Development Council recommended that CPA and other CNMI government agencies assist signatory airlines tap new tourism markets to increase NMI-bound traffic. CPA Executive Director Carlos H. Salas mentioned the agency's Airline Incentive Program, which grants airline companies that would serve new destinations significant discounts on airport charges. Mr. Salas said this is CPA's way of extending its assistance to the overall efforts of the CNMI government geared at revitalizing the Commonwealth's travel sector.

National Park Service renews support for Rota nat'l park bill

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The Rota Cultural and Natural Resources Study Act was one of only two bills that the National Park Service supported during yesterday's hearing by the U.S. Senate Subcommittee on National Parks. The Park Service had also testified in favor of the bill, H.R. 1141, during a hearing in the House of Representatives last year. The House then passed the measure in January 2012, sending it to the Senate.

"[Yesterday's] hearing is a clear indication of the importance the Park Service places on the archeological and historical resources on Rota," said CNMI

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan, who authored the Park study bill.

"There was another park study bill on the Subcommittee agenda [yesterday] and a number of bills creating National Heritage Areas. But only the Rota bill and one other got the support of the Park Service."

H.R. 1141 authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to study the "suitability and feasibility" of designating areas of Rota as a unit of the National Park System. In 2005 a Park Service reconnaissance team reported that Rota definitely had areas and resources of "national signifi-



Sablan

cance" that warranted a more detailed study.

"Rota preserves striking examples of the 3,000-year-old Chamorro culture," Dr. Stephanie Toothman, associate di-

rector of Cultural Resources for the National Parks Service, testified yesterday.

"The Mochon Latte Village, the Chugai Pictograph Cave, the Taga Latte Stone Quarry, and the Alaguan Bay Ancient Village prehistoric sites include architectural features unique to the ancient Chamorro culture and represent outstanding examples of the territory's cultural resources."

Along with his own testimony, requesting the Subcommittee to report the bill to the full Senate for passage, Sablan also submitted statements and letters from Rota residents and from

previous visitors to the island, backing the bill.

"There is no doubt of the enthusiasm on Rota for the idea of a national park," Sablan said. "In fact, my understanding is that the idea really got its start with Rota senator Diego Songao, who requested the reconnaissance survey almost 10 years ago. That is the foundation that we have been building on."

Senate President Paul A. Manglona, Rep. Teresita A. Santos, and Rota Mayor Melchor A. Mendiola are among other officials who have supported the Rota national park.

H.R. 1141 will allow for even

more public input.

"The suitability and feasibility study, if approved by the Senate and signed by President Obama, will include opportunities for residents of Rota to put forward ideas on how best to preserve the significant cultural and natural resources of their island," said Sablan.

The hearing was webcast live on the subcommittee's website (<http://www.energy.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/hearings-and-business-meetings?ID=b5cdeda0-cb0e-4980-a97b-ef4a95f01fe#>) and an archived video will be available shortly. (PR)

Rotary puts off distribution of free dictionaries

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Owing to the power crisis that the Public School System is dealing with, the Rotary Club of Saipan has decided to put off the distribution of dictionaries to third graders in public elementary schools to next week.

Rotary president Pete Igitol and Vocational Service director Kelley Butcher separately confirmed the rescheduling of the distribution of over a thousand Webster's Paperback Dictionaries to students.

Rotarians were scheduled to hand out yesterday morning the dictionaries to their first recipient, some 120 third graders at William S. Reyes Elementary School, but had to reschedule because of the disconnection of power in the administrative offices of various public schools on island last Tuesday.

As a result, classes were suspended in all public schools on Wednesday pending their

completion of a contingency plan for emergency situations. Three public schools, including Koblerville and Tanapag elementary schools, remained closed yesterday but resumed operations today.

"It is very, very unfortunate that because of the power cut off, we have to delay the distribution of the dictionaries," Rotary president Pete Igitol told *Saipan Tribune*. "Hopefully, we can start the distribution next week."

According to Igitol, they do not want to keep the children waiting for the dictionaries. "The children are already aware that the dictionaries are coming to them. For them to be waiting for several more days is just unfortunate so we really hope that we can deal with the distribution starting Monday," he added.

Butcher noted that Rota's Sinapalo Elementary School, which received the dictionaries last during the project's initial year in 2011, will be the first to receive it this year.

Butcher, who is also the legal counsel for PSS, said she will personally deliver the dictionaries to the Rota third graders

as she is scheduled to fly to the southern island today.

Butcher said Cape Air has agreed to waive the freight cost

for the dictionaries she will distribute on Rota. Freedom Air, she added, will also shoulder the freight cost for the dictionaries to third graders at the Tinian Elementary School.

Rotary's dictionary proj-

ect this year, which cost about \$1,500, is made possible with the assistance of the Rotary Club of Northern Guam with the "SoCal Dictionary Project" from the Rotary Club of Pacific Basin out of San Diego.

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

On Iran, patience and power

The following editorial appeared in the Los Angeles Times on Wednesday, March 7:

It's not clear that Israel is convinced, but President Obama deserves credit for his forceful argument that the Jewish state shouldn't precipitously attack Iran's nuclear program. He has also effectively rebuked American politicians, including his Republican rivals, for "beating the drums of war."

At the same time, Obama has committed the United States to a "military effort" to block a nuclear weapon—a newly muscular formulation of his long-standing commitment to take no option off the table.

In a speech to a pro-Israel lobbying group, in discussions with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and at Tuesday's news conference, Obama has sounded three themes. One is that non-military pressure on Iran needs time to work but is already beginning to show promise. The second is that the United States is committed to Israel's security. ("I have Israel's back," he told the American Israel Public Affairs Committee.) And third, that a war with Iran, whether launched by Israel or the U.S., would have catastrophic human costs. That reality needs to be acknowledged by Republicans who, in Obama's words, have been "popping off" about a military confrontation.

Israel's anxieties about Iran's nuclear program are certainly understandable. The regime in Tehran rejects the Jewish state's legitimacy in hateful language and has for years provided aid to both Hamas and Hezbollah. Nor is it surprising that Israelis agonize about whether the United States really appreciates its position. For many Israelis, an Iranian nuclear weapon would constitute the proverbial existential threat, a potential second Holocaust. For the United States, a nuclear-armed Iran would pose more diffuse dangers, such as a nuclear arms race in the region or the possibility that Iran's nuclear weapons would fall into the hands of terrorists. There also are disagreements between the U.S. and Israel about whether Iran is, in fact, committed to building a bomb.

Despite these different perspectives, Obama presented Israel with a strong case for patience. Sanctions, he said, are "slowing the Iranian nuclear program and virtually grinding the Iranian economy to a halt." They also may have drawn Iran back to the negotiating table; on Tuesday it was announced that negotiations would be resumed between Tehran and the U.S., France, Britain, China, Russia and Germany. It is far too early to give up on diplomacy—or, as Obama said at his news conference, "this notion that somehow we have a choice to make in the next week or two weeks, or month or two months, is not borne out by the facts."

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Since when did intellect and education become bad things?

As a card-carrying member of the media elite, it's hard for me to say something nice about Newt Gingrich. But here it is: He doesn't wear blue jeans in public.

Compare this to the leaders in the GOP presidential field, Rick Santorum and Mitt Romney, both of whom regularly pander to the regular-guy lobby by wearing geezer jeans to campaign events. To succeed in the Republican primaries these days, you have to be seen as a regular guy, or possibly a regular gal.

Gingrich, who has a Ph.D. and who has authored or co-authored 21 books, clearly does not see himself as a regular guy. His biographer wrote that even as a graduate student at Tulane in 1968, Newt wore a jacket and tie to class. It's like the old Mort Sahl line about Richard Nixon: "He was born in a log cabin in Whittier, Calif., wearing a blue suit."

Would-be presidents shouldn't wear blue jeans or show up at NASCAR races unless they know what a restrictor plate is or, as Barack Obama learned to his regret in 2008, go bowling unless they regularly bowl. Their campaigns shouldn't issue statements like Santorum's did last month:

"Rick knows firsthand what it means to run the carpool, pick up the kids from practice, help with homework and drop them off at their friends' houses, all while trying to get to work on time or home for dinner with the family."

Like this has anything to do with his ability to lead the free world.

The last thing any presidential candidate wants to be considered is an "elitist," so that's what they call each other. Santorum calls Obama a "snob" because he wants every kid to go to college. (Actually he doesn't, but why let facts stand in the way?)

Gingrich says Romney belongs to the "Wall Street elite." Romney says Gingrich and Santorum were part of the Washington elite.

For many Republican primary voters, the only thing worse than a regular elite is an intellectual elite or a media elite or especially a liberal intellectual media elite.

"I don't come from the elite," Santorum told a Feb. 25 rally in Troy, Mich. "I worked my way to the success that I have and I'm proud of it. Elites come up with phony ideologies and phony ideas to rob you of your freedom."

This would include the phony ideologies and ideas of people like the Founding Fathers, the elite of their day. Was there ever an American as elitist as Thomas Jefferson, the smartest man in every room, a sociophobe intellectual who imported books and wine by the case from France? Jefferson revered the common man, but only from a distance.

Reading history will make you sound like an elitist, but that's the risk you take.

By KEVIN HARRIGAN

St. Louis Post-Dispatch

Kevin Harrigan is a columnist for the St. Louis Post-Dispatch. Readers may write to him at: St. Louis Post-Dispatch, 900 North Tucker Blvd., St. Louis, Mo. 63101, or email him at khorrigan@post-dispatch.com.



When Sarah Palin emerged from the obscurity of Wasilla, Alaska, in 2008 to become the Republican vice-presidential candidate, her appeal was immediate: She was a hockey mom! She had five kids! She could have been our next-door neighbor!

Should the fact that someone reminds you of your next-door neighbor persuade you to vote for him? More to the point, does the fact that a guy reads books and deals in ideas disqualify him?

For many Americans, it does. Anti-intellectualism has been a consistent theme throughout American history. The political scientist Richard Hofstadter won a Pulitzer Prize for "Anti-Intellectualism in American Life."

This was in 1964, and Hofstadter was writing about the 1950s, in the wake of McCarthyism and Adlai Stevenson's "egghead" campaign. Hofstadter noted "hostility to intellectuals expressed on the far right wing, a categorical and folkish dislike of the educated classes and of anything respectable, established, pedigreed or cultivated."

Now it's back. The most prominent American conservative is not the erudite William F. Buckley but the seething Rush Limbaugh.

Maybe blue jeans aren't a fair test, but Romney and Santorum, each of whom has three college degrees, are playing to the cheap seats. Newt's ego won't let him do that, and Rep. Ron Paul of Texas, an obstetrician, just flat doesn't care.

If ideas and knowledge are elitist, if you have to pretend to be ignorant to be elected president, then the country is in more trouble than we thought it was.

American students lag far behind the rest of the world in science, math and other subjects. Newsweek last year gave 1,000 Americans the test that immigrants must pass before they are granted citizenship. Three in 10 couldn't name the vice president. Seventy-three percent didn't know what the Cold War had been about. Forty-four percent were unable to define the Bill of Rights.

"If a nation expects to be ignorant and free, in a state of civilization," Jefferson wrote, "it expects what never was and never will be."

But then again, he was an elitist.

EDITORIAL POLICY

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Throwing its food on the floor

Having thrown its economic food on the floor, Saipan has busied itself bemoaning the intrigues of its alphabet-soup of local agencies. Not all of them at once, mind you, but just one or two agencies at a time. I'm thinking we could start a weekly betting pool for the next jumble of letters to hit the headlines. Hey, why not? I am, after all, a betting man.

I'm really supposed to be an explaining man today. In fact, based on a request from a professor, I worked on the unenviable task of laying out why the CNMI does what it does, or, more to the point, why it did what it did, but come to think of it those are the same things, since the impulses that steer the Commonwealth won't change. What is past is prologue. Anyway, as regards the economy, I do have the answer on that note. It's downright elegant. But I haven't puzzled out when I want to run that piece. Maybe I'll wait until a few more local alphabet-soup agencies enjoy their turn in the circus, since I don't want to interrupt that show; it deserves its own unfettered glory.

And it sure is an emotional show. That's a key thing for the managerial class to heed. Many a professional has met vocational grief in the CNMI by assuming that such-and-such local agency would eventually revert to some abstract notion of economic rationality.

The fly in that soup is that many economic venues are emotionally driven, not rationally driven. In fact, wherever you are in the world, or wherever you're investing in the world, I think the most important thing to determine is if you're dealing with an emotionally based, or a rationally based, place.

The emotionally based venues are far easier to predict than rational places are, since the economically relevant emotional urges are

Article XII must stay

By PEDRO R. DELEON GUERRERO
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

First, the debate on Article 12 is for persons of Northern Marianas descent only, including voting for or against Article 12 if and when such political question is placed on the ballot. To participate in such debate and to question the establishment of a Northern Marianas Descent Registry by other persons or organizations is disrespectful and insulting and an act against the custom, culture, and tradition of persons of Northern Marianas descent.

Article 12 is about the continued existence of persons of Northern Marianas descent and their rights, privileges, and opportunities, hence it shall be debated and decided "only" by the people of the Commonwealth who are persons of Northern Marianas descent and that should be accepted and respected by all regardless.

Now, the issue being presented by the advocates to repeal Article 12—that Article 12 caused the collapse of the Commonwealth's economy is false. Understand that our economy depends largely on the economies of countries like Japan, Korea, Taiwan, China, Russia, the Philippines, and others that support the Commonwealth by way of tourism and other business developments and investments. Unfortunately, our economy started to sink and worsen due to 1) the invasion of Kuwait by Iraq in the late '80s; 2) SARS; 3) the war in Iraq and Afghanistan; 4) the 9/11 attacks on the United States; 5) the fall of the economies of the United States, Japan, Korea, and other countries; 6) the closures of the garment industry due to WTO's approval of the World Trade Agreement; 7) the pullout of Continental and Japan Airlines' direct air service to Saipan; and others.

Should Article 12 be blamed also for U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services' policies that are restrictive and unattractive in promoting tourism and foreign investments in the Commonwealth, hindering economic recovery and growth on Saipan, Tinian and Rota?

In one of Saipan Chamber of Commerce's luncheon meeting held at the Saipan Grand Hotel, Rep. Ray Tebuteb and I personally challenged its members to name at least one thing that Article 12 caused the Commonwealth's economy to fall. I raised the same challenge to the Citizen for Change of Article 12 when they made their presentation on such an issue at the House of Representative. Neither of these organization responded to the challenge. Why? Because they have nothing to prove that Article 12 is responsible for the collapse of the economy in the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Citizen for Change of Article 12 now blames Article 12 for home foreclosures. Ridiculous! Article 12 is not responsible

finite, simple, and immediate. Emotions don't entertain intertemporal tradeoffs. There's simply now, and there is not-now. Easy. And predictable. Which is why many places in the world aren't much different than they were hundreds of years ago, at least if you can overlook the Britney Spears ring tones on the cell phones.

By contrast, a rationally-based venue will have the chaos of thousands, or millions, of players constantly shifting around assets and effort as they re-evaluate decades-long streams of expected payoffs, costs, and tradeoffs. Everything changes everything else, and it never rests.

Been to Hong Kong? It's a productive chaos; rational, but not usually for the faint of heart, since the economy moves fast.

Saipan? A totally predictable and static situation; emotional, indeed, and the only important variable is how much money the feds will send out. So all the hand-wringing, politics, contention, and arguments are merely reflections of the very emotional structure to begin with, as well as the means of competition for entitlements. As for me, I don't have any argument with anybody, I don't have an agenda to promote, and I don't want any entitlements, so I just want to keep away from that stuff. I'd rather bet on a football game, eat hot dogs, and enjoy the show than yell at the players.

For me, it would be a mistake in any venue to try to change its behavior. That's never been my gig. I first worked on Saipan about 20 years ago, and I've always liked Saipan just the way it is, whenever that "is" was or, well, is. Saipan's utter predictability has always appealed to me, serving as a solid constant within comfortable distance of the variable, fast-moving, zip-zap development of Asia's

for: 1) reduced employees' work hours resulting in less pay; 2) rise in unemployment; 3) layoff from jobs; 4) non-payment of home mortgage loans, etc.

According to them, the solution to avoid home foreclosures is to repeal Article 12. You will then have a choice to sell your home or property to any other person at a higher price. But the truth is that foreclosed homes in the Commonwealth, including in the U.S. territories and the U.S. mainland, are sold or auctioned at prices way below their bank's book value. It is because of the economy—not Article 12. True, you can then sell your home or property to any other person, but most likely, at such low price offered by such buyers. And you may end up with nothing in return because the bank may take all and probably you may still end up owing the bank. You will lose your land forever, become landless, homeless, and end up sleeping on benches, streets, parks, you name it. This is now happening in the State of Hawaii and the U.S. mainland. You have that choice too. You decide!

The one advantage to repealing Article 12 is the option it offers landowners in the Commonwealth to sell their property to any other person regardless, but it is not one that will guarantee economic recovery and growth in the Commonwealth and particularly, in promoting and achieving economic advancement and self-sufficiency for persons of Northern Marianas descent. Repealing Article 12 will do more harm than good to persons of Northern Marianas descent. It will eventually take away the rights, benefits, interests, and the protection of persons of Northern Marianas descent against exploitation, which is provided under Section 805 of the Covenant and Section 1 of Article 12, as well as Article 11 of the Northern Mariana Islands Constitution. And it will definitely eliminate from the face of this Earth the true identity of persons of Northern Marianas descent as such person is defined under Section 4 of the Article 12.

In reference to Article 11, its Section 1 states that "public lands belong collectively to the people of the Commonwealth who are person of Northern Marianas descent." Such persons will no longer exist if Article 12 is successfully repealed in its entirety by the voters. Will public lands then belong to all legal residents of the Commonwealth? And pursuant to Article 12, Section 5(a), will legal residents of the Commonwealth then be allowed to receive village and agriculture homestead lots? And will they then become stakeholders to funds invested by the Marianas Public Land Trust pursuant to Article 11, Sections 5(g) and 6(b), and Sections 803(a) and (b) of the Covenant? Probably, yes—if Article 12 is repealed. These are legitimate concern that persons of Northern Marianas descent should consider seriously before voting to repeal Article 12.

The Covenant, Section 805, where in part reads: "the government of the Northern Mariana Islands, in view of the importance

By ED STEPHENS

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Visit Ed Stephens Jr. at EdStephensJr.com.
His column runs every Friday.



advanced economies.

Anyway, back to the show at hand, as various intrigues and complaints swirl around the Commonwealth's government agencies. Things are the way they are because the local electorate chose this structure. If the CNMI was given a chance to roll back the clock 20 years, and to make every decision all over again, I guarantee you that all the same decisions would be made, since these decisions are driven by preferences that would be no different the second time around than they were the first.

Indeed, never mistake a complaint for a change in character. I wish I didn't have that second serving of pie yesterday, but if I was dropped back into yesterday, and I had the chance to re-make the decision, I'd succumb to the same impulse all over again and nothing would change. Hey, I like pie.

Ah, but at least I don't throw it on the floor, since I know that I have to pay for it myself. However, that's a constraint that does not affect the CNMI. So this is one little routine that will not change.

of the ownership of land for the cultural and tradition of the people of the Northern Mariana Islands, and in order to protect them against exploitation and to promote their economic advancement and self-sufficiency (a) will until twenty-five years after the termination of the Trusteeship Agreement, and may thereafter, regulate the alienation of permanent and long-term interests in real property so as to restrict the acquisition of such interest to persons of Northern Mariana Islands descents," is very clearly stated and it is for the same reason that Article 12 must stay.

It should be made clear that Section 805 of the Covenant does not mandate that the issue on the acquisition of permanent and long-term interest in real property within the Commonwealth pursuant to Section 1 of Article 12 shall be placed now before the voters to consider its fate. And nowhere is there in the Covenant or the Northern Mariana Islands Constitution that mention or require the placing of Article 12 in its entirety now before the voters to decide whether or not to repeal it. Section 805 of the Covenant made reference only to such provision provided in Section 1 of Article 12. Yes, such provision or only Section 1 of the Covenant may be placed before the voters now, but not necessary.

Our forefathers taught us the importance and value of our lands and our surrounding waters and how these relate to our culture, heritage, and livelihood, and our continued existence as a people of these islands. We were told to never let our lands go—to hold and pass them on to our children and their children's children. And in our custom, we must respect and obey!

These beliefs and practices are embraced also by indigenous islanders throughout the Pacific region and the Native American Indians in the U.S. mainland, Alaska, and Canada. As mentioned earlier, Section 805 of the Covenant that established our political union with the United States recognizes the importance of the ownership of lands for the culture and traditions of the people of the Northern Mariana Islands. Also, Section 806 of the Covenant states that: "The United States will continue to recognize and respect the scarcity and special importance of land in the Northern Mariana Islands." American Samoa Delegate Eni Faleoma-vaega echoed such value and importance of land for the people of American Samoa when he was quoted as saying, "Land is the umbilical cord that ties our people and our society to our culture. Once you break the trusteeship relationship between the matai and his responsibility as a trustee of his communal lands there will be no more Samoan culture."

Similarly, to repeal Article 12 is to destroy the very foundation that holds and promotes our culture, heritage, and identity as Chamorro and Carolinian people of Northern Marianas descent, and the pillar that have stood the test of time and weather, holding us together as indigenous people of the Northern Mariana Islands will collapse, ending the true identity and existence of

See ARTICLE XII on Page 13

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲ 86° ▼ 75°	▲ 86° ▼ 75°	▲ 86° ▼ 75°	▲ 86° ▼ 75°	▲ 86° ▼ 75°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲ 86 ▼ 77
Palau	Cloudy	▲ 85 ▼ 77
Yap	Showers	▲ 88 ▼ 78
Chuuk	Showers	▲ 89 ▼ 79
Pohnpei	Showers	▲ 85 ▼ 80
Kosrae	Showers	▲ 85 ▼ 80
Majuro	Showers	▲ 87 ▼ 80

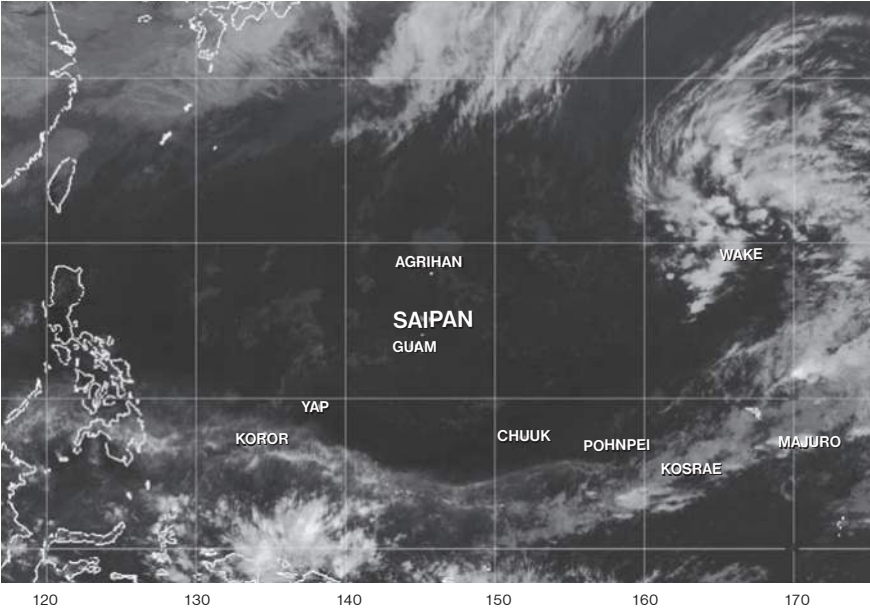
Around The Globe

Auckland	Sunny	▲ 72 ▼ 59
Beijing	Sunny	▲ 45 ▼ 24
Hong Kong	Showers	▲ 69 ▼ 58
Honolulu	Windy	▲ 78 ▼ 68
London	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 55 ▼ 48
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲ 75 ▼ 49
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲ 91 ▼ 77
Melbourne	Showers	▲ 75 ▼ 58
Miami	Showers	▲ 81 ▼ 71
New York	Windy	▲ 65 ▼ 44
Osaka	Cloudy	▲ 51 ▼ 43
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 54 ▼ 41
Pusan	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 51 ▼ 41
Rome	Mostly Sunny	▲ 62 ▼ 41
Salem	Partly Cloudy	▲ 61 ▼ 38
San Francisco	Sunny	▲ 67 ▼ 44
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲ 48 ▼ 28
Tokyo	Rain	▲ 51 ▼ 44
Washington, DC	Windy	▲ 70 ▼ 49

Tides

Saipan Harbor				
2:12 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.0 Feet	
8:19 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.1 Feet	
2:37 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.3 Feet	
8:30 PM	Today	High Tide:	2.1 Feet	

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, THURSDAY, MARCH 8, 2012
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

An upper-level low is centered near Wake Island at 20N168E with a trough south-westward to near Kosrae. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms near Wake Island are north of a line from 17N160E to 17N170 to beyond 25N and over the northern Marshall Islands north of a line from 7N170E to 7N180 to beyond 25N. Trade-wind convergence is causing scattered showers northeast of Tarawa east of a line from 7N175E to 2N175E and across Kosrae within 150 miles of a line from 7N170E to 2N155E. A surface trough southeast of Koror is triggering scattered showers and a few thunderstorms near the equator south of a line from 4N130E to 5N143E.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:29 AM	6:26 PM
Saturday	6:28 AM	6:26 PM
Sunday	6:28 AM	6:27 PM
Monday	6:27 AM	6:27 PM
Tuesday	6:26 AM	6:27 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	7:16 PM	6:40 AM
Saturday	8:17 PM	7:27 AM
Sunday	9:18 PM	8:16 AM
Monday	10:21 PM	9:08 AM
Tuesday	11:23 PM	10:02 AM

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- BUSINESS
Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, grant-ing of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMUT SARI
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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 11, 2012

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP) C05062 2:10am 2:40am 1, 5	ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM) C05064 5:15am 5:45am 1, 5
SAIPAN (SPN)-ROTA (ROP) C05064 4:15am 4:50am 1, 5	ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN (SPN) C05062 3:10am 3:45am 1, 5
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM) C05064 4:15am 5:45am 1, 5 via ROP C05070 4:35am 5:25am 2, 3, 4, 6, 7 C05068 8:25am 9:15am Daily C05074 12:10pm 1:00pm 1, 4, 5, 7 C05076 3:10pm 4:00pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C05078 6:50pm 7:40pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C05078 7:00pm 7:50pm 3, 6 C05072 9:55pm 10:45pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C05072 10:05pm 10:55pm 3, 6	GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN C05062 2:10am 3:45am 1, 5 via ROP C05069 2:45am 3:35am 2, 3, 4, 6, 7 C05071 7:00am 7:50am Daily C05073 10:05am 10:55am 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C05075 1:40pm 2:30pm 1, 4, 5, 7 C05077 5:30pm 6:20pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C05077 5:40pm 6:30pm 3, 6 C05079 8:35pm 9:25pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C05079 8:45pm 9:35pm 3, 6
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT) DL287 6:00am 8:40am Daily DL285 6:35am 9:15am 1, 3, 5, 7 DL297 4:25pm 7:15pm Daily	NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN DL298 10:25am 3:00pm Daily DL288 8:40pm 1:15am+1 Daily DL286 7:40pm 12:20am+1 2, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX) OZ119 4:00am 6:40am Daily	OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN OZ120 9:50pm 2:20am+1 Daily
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN) OZ606 2:10am 6:00am 1 OZ606 2:40am 6:30am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 OZ119 4:00am 11:20am Daily via KIX OZ604 3:20pm 7:10pm Daily	SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN OZ603 9:00am 2:20pm Daily OZ120 7:10pm 2:20am+1 Daily via KIX OZ605 7:40pm 1:00am+1 7 OZ605 8:10pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS) OZ608 3:35am 7:05am 4, 7 DL581 4:10am 7:30am 1, 5	BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN OZ607 9:00pm 2:20am+1 3, 6 DL580 10:10pm 2:55am+1 4, 7
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN) 3U8646 4:20am 7:30am 2, 6	GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN 3U8645 7:40pm 3:00am+1 1, 5
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG) 3U8648 6:10am 8:40am 1, 4, 5, 7	SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN 3U8647 10:40pm 5:00am+1 3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL) OZ606/701 2:10am 11:15am 1 via ICN OZ606/701 2:40am 11:15am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN C05070/191 4:35am 9:45am 3, 6 via GUM DL287/173 6:00am 10:25pm Daily via NRT C05068/183 8:25am 9:25pm 2, 5 via GUM C05068/183 8:25am 9:40pm 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM C05076/183 3:10pm 9:25pm 2, 5 via GUM C05076/183 3:10pm 9:40pm 1, 4, 7 via GUM C05076/193 3:10pm 11:00pm 2, 5 via GUM-Palau OZ604/703 3:20pm 11:00pm Daily via ICN C05072/PR111 9:55pm 7:50am+1 1, 5, 7 via GUM C05072/PR111 10:05pm 7:50am+1 3, 6 via GUM	MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN DL172/288 8:00am 1:15am+1 Daily via NRT C0190/5077 10:55am 6:30pm 3, 6 via GUM C0190/5079 10:55am 9:35pm 3, 6 via GUM OZ702/605 12:30pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ702/605 12:30pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN PR110/C05071 10:15pm 7:50am+1 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM C0192/5071 10:25pm 7:50am+1 2, 5 via GUM-Palau C0184/5071 11:10pm 7:50am+1 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM OZ704/603 11:40pm 2:20pm Daily via ICN C0184/5071 11:59pm 7:50am+1 2, 5 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG) OZ606/721 2:10am 12:00pm 1 via ICN OZ606/721 2:40am 12:00pm 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN C05076/147 3:10pm 10:25pm 1, 5 via GUM OZ604/723 3:20pm 10:30pm Daily via ICN OZ604/749 3:20pm 10:50pm Daily via ICN	HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN OZ724/603 12:30am 2:20pm Daily via ICN OZ750/603 1:00am 2:20pm Daily via ICN OZ722/605 1:15pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ722/605 1:15pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN C0180/5071 11:15pm 7:50am+1 1, 5 via GUM
LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 5K: FlyGuam; 3U: Sichuan Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana	
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The <i>Saipan Tribune</i> is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)	

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan							
FRE 400	17:50	18:20	Daily	Tinian-Saipan			
Saipan-Rota				FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily	FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Letters to the Editor

New blood needed

People have presented many reasons for the end of Article 12, many of them related to business and economic benefits. I am not a businesswoman, but the wife of a retiree, so I cannot be sure about the business and economic side. But I know what I see around me on Saipan, and there is a big problem that get-

ting rid of Article 12 can fix.

The backwardness of the CNMI's culture and government cannot be ignored. Nor can we ignore the fact that almost any NMD person can get themselves a government job. And the big reason for this is that mainland Americans and other non-NMDs can never own

land here, because of Article 12. So we come to Saipan for a short time and don't get involved in government and politics. And the CNMI's society stays the way it is, stagnant and reactionary, with always the same NMD people elected to power, with the same isolationist worldviews in the public sphere, and with many unnecessary jobs given out to friends and family.

Imagine what can happen if we get rid of Article 12. My husband Bob and I, mainland

American retirees, and many others would flock to Saipan to buy land. For the money I can get for our old house in California, I could buy a huge plot of land on Saipan, if only it wasn't for Article 12. There are three hundred million of us mainland Americans, and record numbers of us are retired and retiring soon. There are also countless Filipinos, Chinese, Koreans, and Japanese who could afford land on Saipan. And we

would start treating Saipan as really our social and political home, not just that "stopping off point." Our voting power would finally make non-NMD the dominant political force, and we would change the current government's practices, and especially cut excess government hiring!

I urge everyone, NMD or not, to stand behind repealing Article 12. It would bring fresh blood to Saipan, would

give them a good reason to stay, and would help remake and reform Saipan's political system. Saipan and landownership on Saipan have too long been the domain of just one privileged group, the NMDs. Let's open it up for everybody, to take away that one group's stranglehold on this island, and see a totally new Saipan.

Clarisa Jacobs
Capital Hill, Saipan

Failed punditry

Dr. Shun Young unequivocally nailed the unsustainable position placed against the local hospital by the powers that be by luring it with an initial funding of \$5 million (when last fiscal year it was funded some \$43 million) and said, "Okay, you are now independent, bye!"

Severing CHC from its budgetary obligation without at least a five-year transition period is a crime against the NMI community, if not malfeasance or misfeasance in public office or both. It may be exciting the political punditry that gets into the pages of the newspapers, the saddest episode though being the taxpayers getting the royal screw at day's end! Do we take this lying down and for how much longer?

Even a 10-year transition period would be overly optimistic to see CHC pay for itself. Reason? The NMI needs a population base of over 250,000 people. Our population is about 57K. Throw the cost of utilities into the equation and you run into the same difficult feat of lacking the numbers to spread the cost around. Our best bet is to keep our fingers crossed, praying to divine providence for any and all miracles this side of the Pacific Ring of Fire. Better yet, let's start burning coconut oil from dusk to dawn. It's the only way out of more shocks that will hit consumers as unstable costs of fossil fuel escalates at every blink of the eye.

If the foremost definition of

leadership is "placing people first," then we haven't seen this phenomenon here to date nor in recent past, have we? Interesting how one side of the street tried to outmaneuver the other with its silly and shallow agenda to sever and avoid defraying the cost of healthcare. The administration hastily pushed this deal through but was caught with its filthy fingers in the cookie jar while the Legislature simply failed to catch what was presented it requiring deliberative discussions. How sad the wind our sails are torn!

Thank heavens we have medical professionals with rock solid moral turpitude to protect the innocent from the reckless bunch on the hill.

John S. DelRosario Jr.
As Gonno, Saipan

\$391K for the Northern Islands mayor?

While the CNMI is trying to figure out where to find funds for CHC, PSS, CUC, and other bloated government agencies, the mayor of the almost uninhabited Northern Islands is asking for more than a quarter million dollars for employee salaries. What the heck is going on?

There are just a handful of people who choose to reside in the Northern Islands. The Northern Islands Mayor's Office should be abolished because there is no money to

fund it right now. If people choose to live in the Northern Islands, let them live like the ancient Chamorros did. Live off the ocean and land. Plenty of food there to survive on like *ayuyu*, *fanihi*, *guihan*, *chiba*, *manuk*, *haggan*, *niyuk*, etc. Abolish the Northern Islands Mayors Office. Abolish the Senate. Abolish municipal councils. Unless you want to keep wasting money.

Antonio Aldan
Kagman, Saipan

ARTICLE XII

From Page 11

the Chamorro and Carolinian people of Northern Marianas descent from the face of this earth—forever. Hence, Article XII must stay.

Pedro R. Deleon Guerrero is chairman of the Marianas Public Land Trust board and is a former House speaker.



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RED CROSS HERO



Name: Claudine Atalig
Occupation: Certified Pharmacy Technician
Workplace: PHI Pharmacy
Native of: Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands

Atalig was first introduced to the American Red Cross in 1995. Since then, this Disaster Action Team veteran has responded to numerous disasters that have taken place on Saipan and abroad like Typhoon Chata'an in Guam and Sept. 11 in New York. Atalig, who has one child and raised five, said that being a volunteer for ARC has been rewarding and a life-changing experience. "Helping those in distress is what I love to do," Atalig said. "I am a better person today because of the experiences gained from volunteering with this organization."

For more information on volunteering opportunities, contact the NMI Chapter at 670-234-3459 or visit www.Redcross.org.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday to Orchid Bella, who is celebrating her special day today, March 9, 2012, and advance happy birthday to Julienne Claire Tabilog Bella on March 12, 2012. A faithful friend is the medicine of life. Wishing you love, sunshine, and laughter not just for today but all the days after.

Happy 1st birthday to Joaquin Jose Abwalscheng Mallens Cangco Jr. May the Lord continue to guide you and bless you throughout the years. We love you very much! Greetings come from Mommy, Daddy, and Jayleen.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Belated happy birthday to Jeff Reyes, who celebrated his special day on March 7, 2012. Hope you enjoyed your night with family and friends. May you have many more birthdays to come and best wishes! Greetings coming out from your one and only Babes, kids, and family.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Advanced happy birthday Adela "Reyna" Soliman, who will celebrate her special day on March 11, 2012. Some words of wisdom for your birthday: "Smile while you still have teeth!" Wishing you good health and happiness in life. God bless! Greetings come from your Hernandez family!

MATH WHIZ



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Congratulations to our son, Codie Joseph T. Escota, for winning first place in the MathCourt competition held on March 3 at Garapan Elementary School. We are very proud of you! Keep up the good work! We love you! Greetings come from Dad, Mom, Caine, Eli, Papa, and Mama.

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Feel the difference

COMMUNITY BRIEFS**Power outage in Koblerville, Katmelo, As Gonno**

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. would like to inform the general public that there will be a power outage this Saturday, March 10, 2012, from 8:30am to 11:30am.

Areas affected will include the Koblerville Mobil gas station to Hanam Market, Koblerville Housing and Turn Key Housing, As Gonno Rd. to Katmelo area, and As Gonno area.

The purpose of the outage is to allow the power distribution crew to replace rusted cross-arm bolts, install a transformer and perform line clearing in Katmelo area.

Because of the scale of the work that will be performed, travelers are asked to take alternate routes or to exercise caution when driving through the affected areas. (CUC)

Kagman High School notices

Kagman High School's progress reports were sent home yesterday, Thursday, with students. Parents are reminded to ask their child for his or her report.

Mandatory Parent Literacy Night:

Pls. mark your calendar for the following grades:

- Freshmen, March 27 at 5pm
 - Sophomores and Juniors on March 28 at 5pm
 - Seniors on March 29 at 5pm
- Mandatory attendance for

failing students and parents.

For more information, please call the KHS main office at 237-3840 or e-mail kagmanhs@gmail.com. (PR)

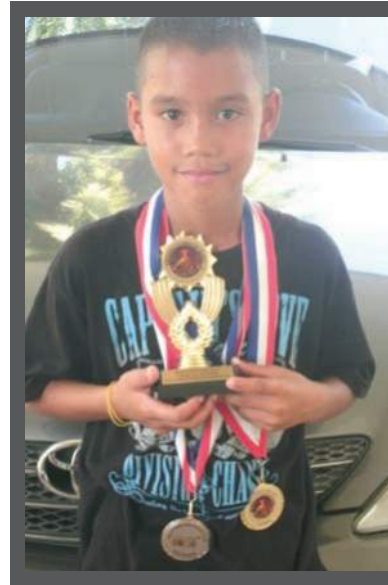
Diabetes Coalition execs on Marianas Agupa!

This Saturday, March 10, 2012, *Marianas Agupa* will feature Community Health Conversation Planning Committee chair Malua T. Peter and CNMI Diabetes Coalition committee chair Vinycia T. Seman to talk about the village campaign and outreach program and ways to have healthy lifestyles. The two will be featured from 10am to 10:30am. The show starts at 9am and ends at 11am on Magic 100.3 FM.

The Chamorro radio talk show program is hosted by Glenn H. Manglona and features reports by former mayor Joseph S. Inos, Thomas D. Mendiola from Rota, a special segment called Hafa Mohon with Juanita Mendiola, and a report from Tinian by David M. Cing. Simultaneous Internet streaming via www.magic100radio.com will be available. (PR)

MHS Class of '96 reunion meeting today

Marianas High School Class of '96 will be having a reunion meeting today, March 9, 2012, 7pm, at the residence of Jenn Castro in Koblerville. For more information, contact Gary Villagomez at 789-0894 (cell) or 256-0252 (home). (PR)

**STEM FAIR WINNER**

Congratulations to Joaquin Henry L. Fleming for winning first place in the Koblerville Elementary School's STEM FAIR 2012 and being the overall winner in Health/Nutrition/Medical. We're really proud of you, my boy. You did a good job and keep up the good work. We love you! Greetings come from Dad, Mom, ReMo, bro, Mrs. Stanker, your family, principal, VP, teachers, and friends.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

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Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos, seated-center, joins board members and volunteers of the American Red Cross-NMI chapter led by executive director John Hirsh, seated-right, after signing a proclamation declaring March 2012 American Red Cross Month in the governor's conference room on Capital Hill yesterday morning.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Inos: Volunteer with Red Cross

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos is urging the community to support and volunteer with the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter which he said has played a major role in helping people in their times of need.

"I urge members of the community to work with Red Cross and contribute your time," he said. "It's a worthy cause."

Inos said this when he signed yesterday morning a proclamation declaring March 2012 American Red Cross Month.

American Red Cross-NMI Chapter executive director John Hirsh and other Red Cross volunteers witnessed the proclamation signing.

Hirsh also recognized Juan Lizama's nine-year volunteerism with the Red Cross as a board member. After three three-year term, a board member has to step off the board for two years.

The Red Cross is not a government agency and relies on donations of time, money, and

blood to do its work.

"During American Red Cross Month, we thank those who contribute to the mission of the Red Cross here in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, whether through donations of volunteer service, financial assistance or Chapter leadership and we invite others to support the Red Cross in helping people in need down the street, across the country and around the world," Inos said in his proclamation.

The NMI Chapter has a number of activities planned for Red Cross Month, including a super CPR Saturday, disaster preparedness training, and the 26th annual Walkathon on March 24 starting at the 4-H Building in Susupe at 6am. For more information about the NMI Chapter and how you can get involved, call the office at 234-3459.

Inos also proclaimed March 2012 CNMI Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month, as well as CNMI Women's Month and March 8 CNMI Women's Day.

House cancels session as work continues on line of credit deal

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial met yesterday with Marianas Public Land Trust and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. officials who are pursuing an \$11.58 million line of credit agreement so that the hospital will have an immediate infusion of cash to help pay its employees and vendors.

Press secretary Angel Demapan said the governor met with MPLT to see how they can move forward with the line of credit for CHC. He said when the governor left MPLT, the trustees were still in a meeting on the issue of the line of credit.

As MPLT and CHC work on the agreement two days after the governor placed CHC under a state of emergency, House Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan) delayed and then cancelled yesterday's session.

The House was supposed to act yesterday on a Senate-substituted \$11.58 million line of credit bill. The Senate amendments included \$5 million for the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. to pay for the outstanding utility debts of both CHC and the Public School System.

The administration and the Legislature are looking at helping pay CUC \$800,000 to restore

power to PSS and CHC units.

Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos said yesterday morning that the Department of Finance has been working on identifying funds that can be reprogrammed to pay CUC at least \$800,000 on behalf of PSS and CHC.

Inos said Finance reached out to both the Customs Service Division and Revenue and Taxation Division to make sure collections are posted and deposited in the bank and "to see any chance to transfer funds to CUC."

Demapan said this issue was still a work in progress at close of business yesterday.

Meanwhile, MPLT chair Pedro Deleon Guerrero said the line of credit agreement has the same requirements set in Rep. Ray Basa's (Cov-Saipan) House Bill 17-278.

"Basically we're having the same requirements. We are now waiting for CHC's repayment plan and a document that says where they will use the money for. They are now working on it," Deleon Guerrero told *Saipan Tribune*.

As to the fate of HB 17-278, Deleon Guerrero said MPLT does not want to interfere in the Legislature's affairs. He also said PSS has not approached MPLT to help them with their payment to CUC.



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FANTASTIC GIVEAWAYS!!

HAPPENING!

- DYS Community Action Team (CAT) meetings on Tuesdays.
- Parents Anonymous Group Meetings on Thursdays.
- DYS Common Sense Parenting (CSP) classes on Tinian at the Youth Center. (For more information, call Augusta Famaw at 287-3268 or Maria Aguon at 433-6842/0649.)

UPCOMING:

✓ DYS Professional Development Training on March 21-22, 2012.

CALL FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AT:

664-2563/2565 ON SAIPAN
532-9393 ON ROTA
433-2950 ON TINIAN

Monday, March 12, 2012
Tinian Elementary School
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For more
information,
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Business

Alliances the buzz word for Europe auto survival

GENEVA (AP)—Alliances are the buzz word of European automakers' struggle for survival.

PSA Peugeot-Citroen chairman Philippe Varin said Wednesday at the Geneva Motor Show that a new alliance with General Motors will allow the French automaker to return to long-term profitability in Europe.

There is hardly a potential ally that Fiat and Chrysler CEO Sergio Marchionne will rule out.

"We are open to everything," Marchionne said, even as the fresh GM-Peugeot alliance

complicates Fiat's search for potential new partners.

While alliances have been around for a while—some more successful than others—the brutal European car market characterized by plummeting sales, idled factories and fierce competition is pushing many automakers to look for partners for new technology and access to fresh markets without reinventing the wheel.

Industrial tie-ups are becoming even more urgent as the European market continues to contract. Sales were down 200,000

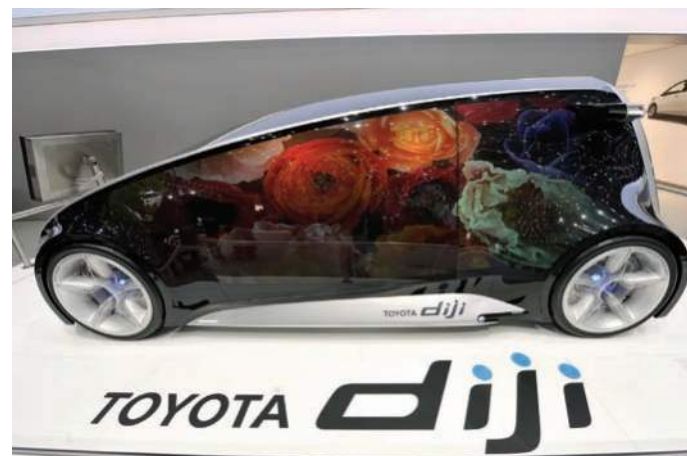
units, or 9 percent, in the first two months of the year, and the car market has lost some 2.5 million vehicle sales from its peak in 2006-07, according to figures from IHS Automotive.

"This requires more and more investment that nobody can do except through acquisitions and alliances," said Carlos Ghosn, head of the 13-year-old Nissan and Renault alliance. "If Nissan were alone and Renault were alone there were many things we could not do."

Targeted alliances are driven by the logic that a good four-

cylinder engine is a good four-cylinder no matter who builds it, and no driver cares about what

platform the car is on. Only when it comes to more powerful engines, does brand identity



The new Toyota Diji Prototype car is shown during the press day at the 82nd Geneva International Motor Show in Geneva, Switzerland, Wednesday, March 7, 2012.

come into play. Maserati and Ferrari, for example, strictly restrict their powertrain technologies to those brands.

The Peugeot-GM alliance is somewhat broader. GM becomes the French automaker's second-largest shareholder with a 7-percent stake, behind the Peugeot family, whose stake drops from 31 percent to around 25 percent.

"It represents an opportunity to build a strong and more profitable business not just in Europe, but in other parts of the world," Varin said, allowing Peugeot to address tightening emissions targets in Europe and strengthen its position in emerging markets in a way not economically feasible on its own.

Hiring grows as companies hit limits with workers

WASHINGTON (AP)—U.S. companies will have to keep hiring steadily to meet their customers' rising demand.

That's the message that emerged from a report Wednesday that employers are finding it harder to squeeze more output from their existing staff. It also helps explain why ADP, a payroll provider, estimated Wednesday that companies added 216,000 workers last month.

Those findings reinforced confidence that 2012 will mark a turning point for the long-suffering job market and the economy. Applications for unemployment benefits have tumbled. Consumer confidence is at its highest point in a year. And the stock market has been on a tear since the year began.

Feeding on themselves, those trends tend to fuel further economic growth.

The brighter signs come two days before the government will issue the February employment report. It's expected to show a third straight month of strong hiring.

Business executives are sensing the shift. A survey released Wednesday by Duke University's Fuqua School of Business found that confidence among U.S. chief financial officers has risen to its highest point in a year. As a result, the survey found that companies expect to increase hiring for full-time jobs by 2.1 percent over the next year, up from 1.5 percent in a survey in December.

"This rebound is encouraging because increases in chief financial officer optimism have historically preceded improvements in the overall economy," said John Graham, a finance professor who directed the survey.

The survey was released the same day that the government reported a paltry gain in worker productivity at the end of last year. The 0.9 percent annualized increase was half the growth rate from the July-September quarter. Similarly, for the year, U.S. worker productivity grew at its slowest pace in nearly a quarter of century.

Productivity measures output per hour of work. Slower productivity can squeeze corporate profits. But it can lead to more jobs if it shows that companies can't derive more production from their workers. That often means they must hire to meet customer demand.

After the recession, productivity soared. After laying off staffers, companies managed to make their leaner staffs more efficient. Such productivity growth tends to slow eventually.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Oil hovers above \$106 amid Iran nuclear tensions

SINGAPORE (AP)—Oil prices hovered above \$106 a barrel Thursday in Asia as investors remain skeptical that tensions over Iran nuclear program will ease soon. Benchmark oil for April delivery was up 21 cents to \$106.37 at midday Singapore time in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract rose \$1.46 to settle at \$106.16 per barrel in New York on Wednesday. Brent crude was steady at \$124.12 per barrel in London. Crude has risen from \$96 last month to near 10-month highs because of worries a military conflict over

Iran's nuclear program would disrupt global oil supplies. The U.S. and Europe have imposed sanctions while Iran has threatened to halt crude tankers passing through the Persian Gulf.

Panel: US should rethink nuke emergency plans

WASHINGTON (AP)—The U.S. should customize emergency plans for each of the nation's 65 nuclear power plants, a change that in some cases could expand the standard 10-mile evacuation zone in place for more than three decades, an expert panel is recommending. That's one of the lessons to emerge in a 40-page report to be

released Thursday on the eve of the Japan nuclear disaster's one-year anniversary from a committee that examined the incident for the American Nuclear Society. The panel includes a former chairman of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, a fellow at an Energy Department laboratory and seven other nuclear scientists. The report concludes that U.S. nuclear power oversight is adequate to protect public health and safety but that emergency zones "should not be based on arbitrary mileage designations."

Wells Fargo may consolidate branches: CFO

Wells Fargo & Co. may consolidate branch offices as it reviews its retail business and costs. Tim Sloan, the bank's chief financial officer, told a financial conference that the bank is looking at all its branch locations to see if there are opportunities to combine offices that may be near each other. San Francisco-based Wells Fargo acquired Wachovia Bank in 2008 during the financial crisis. It has converted Wachovia's network of branch offices to the Wells Fargo brand. Wells Fargo has about 9,000 locations in the U.S.

Taco Bell introduces Doritos taco shell

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP)—Taco Bell hopes to turn orange Doritos cheese powder into green—as in cash from its latest invention. The Mexican-style chain plans to roll out Doritos Locos Tacos at midnight on Wednesday at its nearly 5,600 restaurants nationwide. The fast-food chain, a unit of Yum Brands Inc., calls the tacos that use shells made out of Nacho Cheese Doritos the biggest product launch in its 50-year history. It plans to introduce a Doritos Cool Ranch taco shell this fall.



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1. Has been terminated or laid off, or has received a notice of termination or layoff, from employment;
2. Is eligible for or has exhausted entitlement to unemployment compensation; OR has been employed or attached to the workforce for a duration sufficient to demonstrate to WIA, but is not eligible for unemployment compensation due to insufficient earnings or having performed services for an employer that were not covered under a state unemployment compensation law; and
3. Is unlikely to return to a previous industry or occupation.

Category B: Plant Closure. To qualify, an individual must meet one of the following three criteria:

1. Has been terminated or laid off, or has received a notice of

termination or layoff, from employment as a result of any permanent closure of, or any substantial layoff at, plant, facility, or enterprise;

2. Is employed at a facility at which the employer has made a general announcement that such facility will close within 180 days; or
3. For purpose of eligibility to receive services other than training, intensive or supportive services under WIA, is employed at a facility at which the employer has made general announcement that such facility will close.

Category C: Self Employed or Unemployed. To qualify, an individual must meet the following criteria:

1. Was self employed (including employment as a farmer, a rancher, or a fisherman) but is unemployed as a result of general economic conditions in the community in which the individual resides or because of natural disasters.

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Nation

Romney encourages rivals to fold; no way, they say

WASHINGTON (AP)—His delegate lead growing, Mitt Romney gently nudged his Republican opponents toward the sidelines on Wednesday and said he was on track to wrap up the presidential nomination before the party convention next summer. Rick Santorum and Newt Gingrich paid him no mind, vowing to fight on in a campaign marked by persistent ideological divisions.

If anything, the political maneuvering intensified as the marathon pointed toward contests in five states over the next week. Romney's campaign purchased television advertising time in Alabama according to campaign sources, as it pursued a breakthrough in the party's Southern base.

A Santorum ally urged Gingrich to abandon the race.

In response, the former House speaker said he would consider it—if he thought Santorum was sure to beat Romney and then President Barack Obama. "I don't," he added.

And when Santorum was informed that an aide to Romney had said it would take an act of God for any other candidate to amass a majority of convention delegates, Santorum responded heatedly. "What won't they resort to, to try to

Super Tuesday vote

How the Republican presidential candidates fared in Tuesday's 10-state array of primaries and caucuses:

Results as of 8:30 a.m.
ET Wednesday

✓ Projected winner

	Newt Gingrich	Ron Paul	Mitt Romney	Rick Santorum
Alaska	14%	24%	✓ 33%	29%
Ga.	✓ 47	6	26	20
Idaho	2	18	✓ 62	18
Mass.	5	10	✓ 72	12
N.D.	8	28	24	✓ 40
Ohio	15	9	✓ 38	37
Okla.	27	10	28	✓ 34
Tenn.	24	9	28	✓ 37
Va.	—	40	✓ 60	—
Vt.	8	25	✓ 40	24

Source: AP Graphic: Robert Dorrell

NOTE: Wyoming holds its GOP county conventions from March 6 through March 10 © 2012 MCT



bully their way through this race?" he said in Lenexa, Kan. "If the governor now thinks he's now ordained by God to win, then let's just have it out."

One day after Super Tuesday, Romney's campaign circulated a memo making the case that his six victories on a single night had increased his delegate lead to a point that it was increasingly hard for any of his rivals to catch up. And they were hurting the party

by continuing to try, it suggested.

"As Gov. Romney's opponents attempt to ignore the basic principles of math, the only person's odds of winning they are increasing are President Barack Obama's," it said.

Romney didn't go that far in an interview, and he stopped short of a flat prediction that he would achieve his goal of a pre-convention delegate majority. "We think that will get done

before the convention, but one thing I can tell you for sure is there's not going to be some brokered convention where some new person comes in and becomes the nominee," he said on CNBC's "Squawk Box." "It's going to be one of the four people that are still running."

After Super Tuesday, Romney has 419 delegates overall, more than his three rivals combined. Santorum is second

with 178, Gingrich has 107 and Paul has 47. It takes 1,144 to win the nomination.

While Romney clearly would like all his opponents to drop out, the departure of just one—either Santorum or Gingrich—might be less welcome. The two often divide the anti-Romney vote and enable him to win contests he might otherwise lose. In Ohio, the marquee matchup on Tuesday, Romney edged Santorum by a little more than 10,000 votes out of 1.2 million cast. Gingrich drew about 175,000 votes and Ron Paul 111,000.

Gingrich and Santorum both argue that despite Romney's financial and organization advantages, he is a latecomer to conservative causes, plagued by inconsistencies in his record and unable to articulate significant differences with Obama.

Earlier this week, Romney abruptly abandoned a position he has held since he ran for governor to link increases in the federal minimum wage to rises in inflation. He had reaffirmed it as recently as last month, telling reporters aboard his campaign jet, "I haven't changed my thoughts on that." But Santorum and Gingrich hold opposing views, as do Republican business allies, and on Tues-

day, Romney said on CNBC, "There's probably not a need to raise the minimum wage."

In a post-Super Tuesday interview, Romney also said there is no current way of proving that his proposed tax cuts wouldn't raise the deficits, "because those kind of details have to be worked out with Congress and we have a wide array of options."

He has called for a 20 percent reduction across the board in personal income tax rates, and says he will recommend curbing some of the existing tax breaks that wealthier taxpayers currently enjoy. Asked what level of income would qualify as wealthy, he sidestepped.

"What I'll look at is the various cohorts, the top 5%, the top 10%, the top 25%, we'll look across the code at the various categories and see if they're continuing to pay the approximate share that they've paid in the past under the current system," he said.

"It's important that the great majority of Americans don't see an increase in their tax share," he added.

Romney spent the day in Massachusetts after sleeping at home for the first time in weeks, a result of a nominating campaign that has gone on longer than any in recent years.



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INVITATION TO BID ROTA BIRD SANCTUARY ROAD PAVING ITB12-GOV-043

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lieutenant Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Office, (collectively, "Commonwealth") are soliciting sealed bids for the Rota Bird Sanctuary Road Paving on Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project package will be available on Thursday, March 8, 2012 at Pacific Quick Print & Post, located on Middle Road, Garapan. A non-refundable payment to Pacific Quick Print & Post, amount to be determined is required for a set of the project package. All interested bidders are required to include an Insurer Certification Clearance (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC should be obtained at the Department of Commerce, Office of the Insurance Commissioner on Capitol Hill. At the time of award, prospective bidder must obtain a U.S. Treasury Bond before a contract is executed.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001, or latest revision thereof. Public Law 15-95 Local Preference Act, as amended by Public Law 15-118 does not apply to this federally funded project. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands (CNMI).

There will be a Pre-bid conference for this project on Monday, March 26, 2012, 2:00 p.m., Saipan local time at the Governor's Office conference room, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan. Questions regarding the Invitation to Bid (ITB) must be addressed and submitted in writing to Mr. Roy P. Reyes, CIP Project Manager, CIP Office, Office of the Governor or fax to (670) 664-2408, no later than Wednesday, March 28, 2012.

Sealed bids must be marked **ITB12-GOV-043-Rota Bird Sanctuary Road Paving**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two (2) copies of the sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, MP, no later than 10:00 a.m. ChST, April 3, 2012. Bidders located outside the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m., ChST, April 3, 2012 and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, one original and two (2) copies of the sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than, April 3, 2012, and must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than April 10, 2012. Failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan at 10:00 a.m. ChST, April 12, 2012. However, if no notices of intent to bid are received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened and read at 11:00 a.m. ChST, April 3, 2012.

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price. The surety company providing the Performance and Payment bonds must be U.S. Treasury listed and possess unencumbered assets equal to the penal amount of each bond. Performance time for completion of this project is three hundred (300) calendar days. The daily liquidated damages shall be greater of (i) five hundred dollars (\$500.00), or (ii) two percent (2%) of the contract price divided by three hundred (300) calendar days, the contract time and will be assessed as delays beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid in the best interests of the CNMI government.

/s/ Eloy S. Inos, Lieutenant Governor
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

/s/ Herman S. Sablan
Director of Procurement & Supply



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director



INVITATION FOR BIDS CUC-IFB-12-009

SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF WATER DIVISION ANNUAL MATERIALS

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Supply and Delivery of Water Division Annual Materials for Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Bid Package may be obtained, upon receipt of a non-refundable payment from the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 for one set; at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

CUC may award a contract to more than one firm for the materials based on bids for "Commodity Groups".

One (1) original and Five (5) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "**CUC-IFB-12-009, Supply & Delivery of Water Division Annual Materials**", to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **April 4, 2012 at 10:00 AM, (ChST)** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid or supply under the contract.

The IFB does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the bid under this request, or to procure or contract for goods.

Bidders will also be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions with regards to CUC-RFP-12-009 must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on **March 19, 2012** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Officer, via email – manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Joel Hoepner, CUC Water/Wastewater Division Engineer via email joel.hoepner@cucgov.org and Janina Muna, CUC Procurement & Supply Administrative Assistant via email mika.muna@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

ABE UTU MALAE
Executive Director

Talk of US military in Syria divides Congress

WASHINGTON (AP)—Defense Secretary Leon Panetta and the nation’s top military leader delivered a sober assessment Wednesday of Syria’s sophisticated air defenses and its extensive stockpile of chemical weapons in a strategic reality check to the demand for U.S. military action to end President Bashar Assad’s deadly crack-down on his people.

President Barack Obama’s 2008 rival—Republican Sen. John McCain—has called for the president to launch airstrikes against Assad to force him from power and end the bloodshed.

 **ACROSS THE NATION**

Ore. nurse aide posted Facebook photos of patients

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP)—An Oregon nursing assistant spent eight days in jail after a jury found her guilty of taking disturbing photos of elderly or disabled patients and posting them to her Facebook wall. A jury convicted Nai Mai Chao, 26, of invasion of personal privacy late last month. She was released from prison on Friday. She was accused of taking graphic photos of patients using bed pans and posting them on Facebook. The pictures date to April 2011. The pictures show at least two patients—one of a patient lying down and another

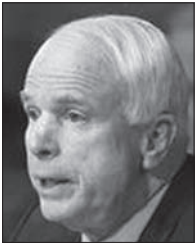
The United Nations estimates that more than 7,500 Syrians have been killed, with hundreds more fleeing to neighboring nations to avoid the slaughter.

Army Gen. Martin Dempsey, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, told the Senate Armed Services Committee that Obama has asked the Pentagon for a preliminary review of military options, such as enforcement of a no-fly zone and humanitarian airlifts. He insisted that the military would be ready

if the commander in chief made the request.

“What are the potential missions, what is the enemy order of battle, what are the enemy’s capabilities or potential enemies? What are the troops we have available, and how much time. So, mission, enemy, terrain, troops and time. That’s a commander’s estimate,” Dempsey said of the initial step.

Panetta said they waiting on Obama before doing more detailed contingency planning.



McCain

In Congress, only McCain’s closest Senate colleagues have echoed his plea. War-weary Republicans and Democrats have expressed serious reservations about U.S. military involvement in Syria after more than a decade of war in Iraq and Afghanistan, the divisive political fight last summer over U.S. intervention in Libya, and the possibility of an Israeli attack on Iran.

House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, said this week that the situation in Syria is too muddled and military action would be premature, an opinion shared by many House

Republicans who challenged Obama last year for dispatching the military to protect Libyans battling to overthrow Moammar Gadhafi. Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney also said this week that he wasn’t prepared to support military action against Syria.

Panetta summed up the situation in stark terms.

“The fundamental issue that is before us is whether or not the United States will go in and act unilaterally in that part of the world, and engage in another war in the Muslim world unilaterally. Or whether or not we will work with others in determining what action we take,” Panetta said.

Still, McCain pressed for military involvement, pointing to Democratic President Bill Clinton’s willingness to act

during the Bosnian war in the 1990s. He engaged in one sharp exchange with Panetta.

“As secretary of defense, before I recommend that we put our sons and daughters in uniform in harm’s way, I’ve got to make very sure that we know what the mission is,” Panetta said. “I’ve got to make very sure that we know whether we can achieve that mission? At what price? And whether or not it will make matters better, or worse?”

“Well, let me tell you what’s wrong with your statement,” McCain said. “You don’t mention American leadership. Americans should lead in this. America should be standing up. America should be building coalitions.”

Late last month, Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton traveled to Tunisia to rally the Friends of Syria, 60 U.S. Arab and European nations determined to force Assad and his allies to agree to a democratic transition.

of the back of a patient’s head. The rest of the pictures are of the contents of bed pans.

LA man arrested, 40,000 fake erectile drugs seized

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A 71-year-old former law enforcement officer from South Korea was arrested Wednesday, days after customs officers found his luggage and golf bag stuffed with nearly 40,000 phony Viagra and other erectile dysfunction pills at Los Angeles International Airport, federal authorities said. Kil Jun Lee was returning from a trip to South Korea on Feb. 25 when the officers

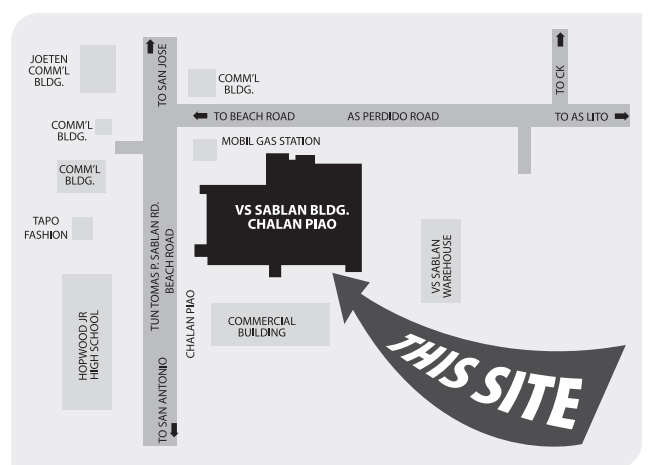
at LAX found 29,827 fake Viagra tablets, 8,993 fake Cialis pills and 793 counterfeit Levitra tablets concealed in packets of aluminum foil and valued at more than \$700,000, Immigration and Customs Enforcement said in a statement. Asked whether the medication was for his own use, Lee told officers he had a heart condition, and if he used all the pills it would kill him, according to the criminal complaint.

Video captures wrong-way Ohio driver who killed 3

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP)—A wrong-way interstate driver slammed into a car full of so-

rority sisters on spring break about one minute after an Ohio trooper received a report about the errant driver, according to dashboard camera video released Wednesday by the State Highway Patrol. The footage shows the wrong-way driver seconds before the crash that killed the driver and three of the Bowling Green University students on Interstate 75 south of Toledo. The early morning crash on Friday also left two other students in critical condition. The five Alpha Xi Delta members were in the car as they caravanned with 11 other sisters in separate cars to the Detroit airport for a trip to the Dominican Republic.

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P.O. Box 501127, Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone No.: (670) 234-7455/234-7427 • Facsimile No.: (670) 234-7256

Attorney for Plaintiff,



COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY,
Plaintiff,

vs.

GLOBAL TRADING, LTD., HERMAN R. GUERRERO and LUCY P. GUERRERO,
Defendants.

Civil Action No. 03-0174

NOTICE OF AUCTION

The Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety, hereinafter referred to as auctioneer, and the Development Corporation Division of the Commonwealth Development Authority, hereinafter referred to as CDA, hereby give notice that all of the right, title, and interest of the Defendants Global Trading Ltd., Herman R. Guerrero and Lucy P. Guerrero in the following described, real property situated in, Saipan, CNMI will be sold at an auction:

Lot No. 011 D 25, located in Garapan, Saipan, containing an area of 772 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Surveys Official Plat No. 011 D 00 dated December 14, 1970, including all existing and future improvements, appurtenances and easements on said property;

and

Lot No. H 328-7-2, located in Capitol Hill, 1,238 square meters, Lot No. H328-7-2 is more particularly described on DLS Check No. 2059/94, which is recorded as File No. 93-4304, at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office, including all improvements, appurtenances and easements therewith.


The auction sale will be open to the general public and will be held at CDA's Conference Room, Saipan, at **2:00 p.m., on Friday, March 16, 2012**, subject to the following announced terms and conditions:

- Minimum Bid. No minimum opening bid.**
- Reserve:** The auction shall be held with reserve.
- Rights and Duties of Auctioneer:** Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable law of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auctions with reserve, auctioneer shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction:
 - To withdraw the property listed for sale in this announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted;
 - To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is struck off, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
 - To reject, on behalf of the seller, any and all bids.
- Bids:** Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in this notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the item. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Manuel A. Sablan, Executive Director, Commonwealth Development Authority, P.O. Box 502149, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 234-7455, Fax: 234-7256.
- Deposit/Payment:** A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten (10) days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check or credit card. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten (10) days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the aforementioned property will revert to CDA.
- Change of Terms:** Auctioneer and CDA reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.
- Inspection and No Warranty:** Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property; contact CDA for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of Global Trading, Ltd., Herman R. Guerrero and Lucy P. Guerrero in the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty, and subject to the redemption laws of the CNMI. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

Dated this 2nd day of February 2012.

/s/ RAMON C. MAFNAS, Commissioner
Department of Public Safety

*Master Card and Visa only: a 2% processing fee will be charged on credit card payment(s).



COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY,
Plaintiff,

vs.

BOBBIE'S AMUSEMENT CO., INC., BARBARA A. PANGELINAN, and THE ESTATE OF JOHN DLG. PANGELINAN,
Defendants.

Civil Action No. 10-0360

NOTICE OF AUCTION

The Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety, hereinafter referred to as auctioneer, and the Development Corporation Division of the Commonwealth Development Authority, hereinafter referred to as CDA, hereby give notice that all of the right, title, and interest of the Defendants Barbara A. Pangelinan n/k/a Barbara A. Yamada and the Estate of John Dlg. Pangelinan in the following described, real property situated in, Saipan, CNMI will be sold at an auction:

Description of Lot 012 G 21, part of Lot 012 G 03, situated in Lualaba, Saipan, CNMI beginning at a corner which is designated as Corner No. 1, having plane rectangular coordinates of 50,202.929 meters North and 56,224.770 meters East of Mariana Islands District Coordinate Systems of 1966.

Thence N 63° 45' 20" E, 35.663 meters to Corner 2;
Thence along "the arc of curve for 14,493 meters, curve date being central angle of 02° 58' 29" a radius of 279,148 to Corner 3;
Thence N 60° 46' 51" E, 44.991 meters to Corner 4;
Thence S 28° 20' 28" W, 15.871 meters to Corner 5;
Thence S 61° 39' 32" W, 95.115 meters to Corner 6;
Thence N 28° 20' 28" W, 116.640 meters to Corner 1,
The point of beginning, including all improvements, appurtenances and easements therewith.


The auction sale will be open to the general public and will be held at CDA's Conference Room, Saipan, at **2:00 p.m., on Friday, March 16, 2012**, subject to the following announced terms and conditions:

- Minimum Bid. No minimum opening bid.**
- Reserve:** The auction shall be held with reserve.
- Rights and Duties of Auctioneer:** Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable law of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auctions with reserve, auctioneer shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction:
 - To withdraw the property listed for sale in this announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted;
 - To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is struck off, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
 - To reject, on behalf of the seller, any and all bids.
- Bids:** Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in this notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the item. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Manuel A. Sablan, Executive Director, Commonwealth Development Authority, P.O. Box 502149, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 234-7455, Fax: 234-7256.
- Deposit/Payment:** A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten (10) days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check or credit card. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten (10) days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the aforementioned property will revert to CDA.
- Change of Terms:** Auctioneer and CDA reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.
- Inspection and No Warranty:** Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property; contact CDA for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of Bobbie's Amusement Co., Inc., Barbara A. Pangelinan n/k/a Barbara A. Yamada and the Estate of John Dlg. Pangelinan in the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty, and subject to the redemption laws of the CNMI. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

Dated this 2nd day of February 2012.

/s/ RAMON C. MAFNAS, Commissioner
Department of Public Safety

*Master Card and Visa only: a 2% processing fee will be charged on credit card payment(s).



Asia

In bin Laden's lair, his wives split by suspicions

RAWALPINDI, Pakistan (AP)—Osama bin Laden spent his last weeks in a house divided, amid wives riven by suspicions. On the top floor, sharing his bedroom, was his youngest wife and favorite. The trouble came when his eldest wife showed up and moved into the bedroom on the floor below.

Others in the family, crammed into the three-story villa compound where bin Laden would eventually be killed in a May 2 U.S. raid, were convinced that the eldest wife intended to betray the al-Qaida leader.

The picture of bin Laden's life in the Abbottabad compound comes from Brig. Shaukat Qadir, a retired Pakistani army officer who spent months researching the events and says he was given rare access to transcripts of Pakistani



This Nov 18, 2011 photo shows the guesthouse inside Osama bin Laden's compound in Abbottabad, Pakistan.

intelligence's interrogation of bin Laden's youngest wife, who was detained in the raid.

Qadir was also given rare entry into the villa, which was sealed after the raid and demolished last month. Pictures he took, which he allowed The Associated Press to see, showed the villa's main staircase, splattered with blood. Other pictures show windows protected by iron grills and the 20-foot high walls around the villa.

Qadir's research gives one of the most extensive descriptions of the arrangements in bin Laden's hideout when U.S. SEAL commandos stormed in, killing bin Laden and four others. His account is based on

accounts by an official of Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence agency who escorted him on a tour of the villa, the interrogation transcription he was allowed to read, and interviews with other ISI officials and al-Qaida-linked militants and tribesmen in the Afghan-Pakistan border region.

The compound where bin Laden lived since mid-2005 was a crowded place, with 28 residents—including bin Laden, his three wives, eight of his children and five of his grandchildren. The bin Laden children ranged in age from his 24-year-old son Khaled, who was killed in the raid, to a 3-year-old born during their

time in Abbottabad. Bin Laden's courier, the courier's brother and their wives and children also lived in the compound.

The 54-year-old bin Laden himself seemed aged beyond his years, with suspected kidney or stomach diseases, and there were worries over his mental health, Qadir said he was told by ISI officials and an al-Qaida member he interviewed in the border regions.

Bin Laden lived and died on the third floor. One room he shared with his youngest wife, Amal Ahmed Abdel-Fatah al-Sada, a Yemeni who was 19 when she married the al-Qaida leader in 1999. Another wife, Siham Saber, lived in another room on the same floor that also served as a computer room, Qadir told AP.

Avalanche buries village in Afghanistan; 50 dead

JARF, Afghanistan (AP)—Rescuers shoveled through deep snow Wednesday, searching for victims of an avalanche that destroyed a village of about 200 people in northeastern Afghanistan, authorities said. Fifty people have been confirmed dead, and most of the other residents of the devastated village are also believed to have perished.

Only seven people are known to have survived the avalanche, which buried dozens of homes Sunday night in Badakhshan province, said Sultanhamid, an employee of the Geneva-based Aga Khan Foundation who hiked to the site.

Four of the survivors were injured in the avalanche in Dasty

village in the Darzab area, Sultanhamid said by telephone. The three others, two women and one child, were away from the village fetching water when tons of snow came crashing down, he said.

The 50 who have been confirmed dead included three who were found alive but died later because no medical personnel have reached the site, said Sultanhamid, who uses only one name, like many Afghans. The dead also included 18 children and two teachers who were in a mosque when the avalanche hit. The bodies that have been found were buried under at least six feet (two meters) of snow, he said.

Shams Ul Rahman, the deputy

governor of Badakhshan province, expressed hope earlier in the day that some people might still be alive inside their homes.

But rescuers at the site feared there were no more survivors, said Sultanhamid, who walked to the avalanche site with 20 officials from Shakay district, where he is working on a government project. They started out at 4 a.m. on Wednesday, and the trek took nine hours.

The Defense Ministry sent two helicopters to help with the rescue effort Wednesday, but they were not able to land near the village because of bad weather, said Rahman. They landed in Shakay district and plan to try again Thursday, he said.

6 UK troops killed in Afghanistan explosion

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—Six British soldiers were killed after an explosion hit their armored vehicle in southwestern Afghanistan, Britain's Ministry of Defense said. It was the biggest loss of life for British forces in the country since a plane crash in 2006.

The soldiers were on patrol in Helmand province at the time of the blast Tuesday evening.

British Prime Minister David Cameron said the deaths marked a "desperately sad day for our country."

The attack is certain to fuel calls for the acceleration of a planned withdrawal of all U.S.-led coalition troops from Afghanistan by the end of 2014. The war has become increasingly unpopular in the United States and among its NATO partners in Europe.

Washington has also grown frustrated with the administration of President Hamid Karzai, who has been making increasing demands of America in order to sign a deal that will allow some troops to remain past 2014, mainly in a counterterror-

ism and training role.

Helmand has been the deadliest province by far for coalition troops since the Afghan war started over a decade ago. Most of Britain's 9,500 soldiers are based there, and the province also has thousands of U.S. troops.

The Taliban have fought fiercely for control of Helmand because it accounts for about half of all poppy production in Afghanistan. Poppy is the main ingredient in making opium and has been a significant source of revenue for the militants.

US, Philippine drills planned near disputed areas

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Thousands of American and Filipino troops will hold annual combat exercises in a western province near where China, the Philippines and four other Asian neighbors have been locked in long-simmering territorial disputes, officials said Wednesday.

This year's drills will be held April 16-27 mainly in Palawan, which faces the South China Sea and lies about 510 miles (820 kilometers) southwest of Manila.

Tensions have grown in recent years because of rival territorial claims by the Philippines, China, Brunei, Malaysia, Taiwan and Vietnam. China has protested military exercises involving U.S. forces near the contested region in the past.

About 4,500 American military personnel and 2,300 Filipino counterparts will join next month's exercises, the U.S. Embassy said, adding that observers from the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations and "partner nations" have been invited.

Philippine officials said the Balikatan, or "shoulder-to-shoulder," drills aim to ensure that the U.S. and the Philip-

pines, longtime defense-treaty allies, can cooperate smoothly during emergencies and disasters. The drills promote regional stability and should not antagonize any country, Philippine military officials said.

Lt. Gen. Juancho Sabban said the drills would include a mock exercise involving the retaking by troops of an oil rig seized by terrorists off the province's western coast.

The drills will be held well within Philippine waters and should not be a concern to China or any claimant to territory in disputed areas, Sabban said.



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950 • Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

SEALED PROPOSALS for **RESTROOM REPAIRS AND WATER PUMP IMPROVEMENTS** at the **FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, COMMONWEALTH OF NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS, AIP 3-69-0002-62/65/67 (CPA-SA-002-09)**, will be received at the office of the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY, Francisco C. Ada / Saipan International Airport, PO Box 501055, Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950.

All bids will be sealed in an envelope and marked on the cover package outside as follows: "Saipan International Airport Restroom Repairs and Water Pump Improvements, AIP 3-69-0002-62/65/67 (CPA-SA-002-09)" and submitted no later than **2:00 p.m., FRIDAY, APRIL 13, 2012**, to the Office of the Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport, at which time and place the sealed proposals will be publicly opened and read.

The project, in general, consists of two (2) groups: **Project 1** is existing restroom repair such as replacement of doors, plumbing fixtures, floor and wall tiles, ceilings, and all toilet accessories; mechanical fixtures; electrical fixtures; replacement of the existing hydro-pneumatic tank; mechanical rehabilitation and replacement of the existing water pump motor and controls, all in accordance with the Plans and Specifications, and **Project 2** is a Design-Build of Restroom 1 in accordance with the Design/Build Concept Plans and Specifications. Bidders are reminded that the Construction Management (CM) team is not available for design services for Project 2.

The Project is being financed by funds from U.S. Federal Aviation Administration and Commonwealth Ports Authority. The contract award, if it is to be made, will be made within sixty (60) calendar days from the receipt of bids. CPA reserves the right to hold such bids in effect for ninety (90) calendar days from the date of bid opening.

The contract period for construction of the project in its entirety shall be **THREE HUNDRED SIXTY (360) CALENDAR DAYS**. Liquidated damages of **FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$500.00)** shall be assessed the contractor for each calendar day the completion of the project is delayed beyond the contract completion date without excuse.

The apparent low bidder may be subject to a thorough and comprehensive review of its qualifications and Bid Documents to ensure that they are "responsive and responsible." This review will include, but is not necessarily limited to previous project experience, financial capabilities, quality of equipment and personnel, and bonding and insurance. If the apparent low bidder is found not to be "responsive or responsible," their bid will be rejected and the next lowest bidder will be evaluated for qualifications.

All mechanics and laborers on the project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate established by the CNMI or the U.S. Secretary of Labor, whichever is higher. A copy of the Department of the Federal Labor Wage Rate Determination is included in Section GP-70-25 of the specifications.

Each bidder must complete, sign, and furnish the "Bidder's Statement on Previous Contracts Subject to EEO Clause," a "Certification of Nonsegregated Facilities," and the "Assurance of Disadvantaged Business Enterprises Participation," as contained in the bid proposal documents, with the submission of the Bid Proposal.

A CD-Rom containing the bid proposal and contract documents including plans and specifications, may be obtained at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950, upon the payment of **ONE HUNDRED FIFTY DOLLARS (\$150.00)** for each set of plan documents in electronic form (CD) including the bid schedule. This payment is nonrefundable. Payment shall be made in cash, cashier's check or U.S. postal money order payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

A pre-bid conference will be held at the CPA Conference Room, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, **10:00 AM, FRIDAY, MARCH 30, 2012**, to explain and clarify any questions regarding this project. All prospective bidders are required to attend. Questions should be submitted to the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, in writing, at least seven (7) days prior to the pre-bid conference.

Each proposal shall be on a form furnished by the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The bidders are required to use the bid schedule form on the CD-Rom. The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bid proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Notice to Bidders; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; (c) any calculation error made in the bid schedule or misenter the quantity of line item; or (d) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

The proposed contract is under and subject to Executive Order 11246, as amended by Executive Order 11375 dated October 13, 1977, and Section 60-1.4(b) of the regulations of the Secretary of Labor (41 CFR 60-1) as implemented by Section 152.61 of the Federal Aviation Regulations, and to the Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) and Federal Labor provisions.

All labor on the project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rates established by CNMI Law or Federal Law, whichever is higher. The Contractor shall take into account minimum wage increases that may be imposed in the CNMI over the life of the Contract.

Each bidder must supply all information required by the bid proposal documents and specifications.

The EEO requirements, labor provisions, and wage rates are included in the specifications, and bid proposal documents are available for inspection at the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

A contractor having 50 or more employees and any subcontractor having 50 or more employees and who may be awarded a contract of Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00) or more, will be required to maintain an affirmative action program, the standards for which are contained in the specifications. To be eligible for award, each bidder must comply with the affirmative action requirements.

In accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, minority business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit proposals in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against, on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in consideration for an award of any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement.

Women will be afforded equal opportunity in all areas of employment. However, the employment of women shall not diminish the standards or requirements for employment of minorities.

Each bid shall be accompanied by either a bid bond by US Treasury listed surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount not less than **TEN PERCENT (10%)** of the bid price. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

The proposed contract is under and subject to the foreign trade restrictions required by 49 CFR Part 30, Denial of Public Works Contracts to Supplier of Goods and Services of Countries that Deny Procurement Market Access to U.S. Contractors.

The Aviation Safety and Capacity Expansion Act of 1990 provides that preference be given to steel and manufactured products produced in the United States when funds are expended pursuant to a grant issued under the Airport Improvement Program

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY:

/s/ JOSE R. LIFOFOI
Chairman of the Board/Contracting Officer

March 6, 2012
Date

World

AP Exclusive: Iran may be cleaning up nuke work

VIENNA (AP)—Satellite images of an Iranian military facility appear to show trucks and earth-moving vehicles at the site, indicating an attempted cleanup of radioactive traces possibly left by tests of a nuclear-weapon trigger, diplomats told The Associated Press on Wednesday.

The assertions from the diplomats, all nuclear experts accredited to the International Atomic Energy Agency, could add to the growing international pressure on Iran over its nuclear program, which Tehran insists is for peaceful purposes.

While the U.S. and the EU are backing a sanctions-heavy approach, Israel has warned that it may resort to a pre-emptive

strike against Iran's nuclear facilities to prevent it from obtaining atomic weapons.

Two of the diplomats said the crews at the Parchin military site may be trying to erase evidence of tests of a small experimental neutron device used to set off a nuclear explosion. A third diplomat could not confirm that but said any attempt to trigger a so-called neutron initiator could only be in the context of trying to develop nuclear arms.

The diplomats said they suspect attempts at sanitization because some of the vehicles at the scene appeared to be haulage trucks and other equipment suited to carting off potentially

contaminated soil from the site.

The images, provided by member countries to the IAEA, the U.N.'s nuclear watchdog, are recent and constantly updated, one of the diplomats said. The diplomats all requested anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the information on the record.

The IAEA has already identified Parchin as the location of suspected nuclear weapons-related testing. In a November report, it said it appeared to be the site of experiments with conventional high explosives meant to initiate a nuclear chain reaction.

It did not mention a neutron initiator as part of those tests,

but in a separate section cited an unnamed member nation as saying Iran may have experimented with a neutron initiator, without going into detail or naming a location for such work.

In contrast, the intelligence information shared with the AP by the two diplomats linked the high-explosives work directly to setting off a neutron initiator at Parchin.

In explaining such a device, the agency's November report said that "if placed in the center of a nuclear core of an implosion-type nuclear device and compressed, (it) could produce a burst of neutrons suitable for initiating a fission chain reaction."

to hide their atrocities.

"They haven't let anyone in for a week, and now they are going to let them in?" Homs activists Tarek Badrakhan told The Associated Press. "Today it's simple: They finished their crimes and hid all the proof. Now they think they can show that everything is normal."

A spokesman for the International Committee of the Red Cross said Amos entered Baba Amr with a team from the Syrian Red Crescent that had been waiting nearly a week to be allowed in and found the ravaged neighborhood deserted.

Syria's Baba Amr is deserted, Red Cross says

BEIRUT (AP)—The U.N. humanitarian chief toured the shattered Syrian district of Baba Amr on Wednesday but found most residents had fled following a bloody military siege, while activists accused the government of trying to cover up evidence of atrocities there.

The monthlong crackdown on the rebellious Homs neighborhood brought international condemnation, and the top U.S. military leader said Wednesday that President Barack Obama has asked the Pentagon for a

preliminary review of military options in Syria.

These include enforcement of a no-fly zone and humanitarian airlifts, Army Gen. Martin Dempsey, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, told the Senate. However, both he and Defense Secretary Leon Panetta said Obama still believes that economic sanctions and international diplomatic isolation were the best ways to pressure Syrian President Bashar Assad into handing over power.

Wednesday's visit to Baba

Amr by the U.N. humanitarian chief, Valerie Amos, was the first by an independent outside observer since the Syrian military began its month-long assault of the rebellious neighborhood. A key stronghold of the uprising against Assad, it was wrested from rebel control on March 1.

The Syrian regime has kept the neighborhood sealed off over the past six days, saying it was too dangerous for humanitarian workers to enter. But activists accused the government of engaging in a "mopping-up" operation

Al-Qaida claims responsibility for Yemen attack

SANAA, Yemen (AP)—Al-Qaida claimed responsibility on Wednesday for a daring week-end assault on a military base in southern Yemen, killing nearly 200 soldiers, the bloodiest battle in a year of turmoil.

In the aftermath of the brazen al-Qaida attack, the U.N. envoy to Yemen warned Wednesday that the terror group has gained ground during the country's political crisis.

Al-Qaida's Yemen branch said in a statement posted on several jihadi websites that it carried out the attack in reaction to the military's plans to sweep through its strongholds in the city of Zinjibar, the provisional capital of southern Abyan province.

The al-Qaida assault has stepped up pressure on newly

inaugurated President Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi to follow through on pledges to purge the army of officers loyal to his predecessor, Ali Abdullah Saleh.

For the third day, tens of thousands of Yemenis demonstrated in cities across the country, demanding that Hadi prosecute army commanders suspected of negligence or collaborating with al-Qaida in the Sunday attack.

In response to the protesters' demands, the Yemeni interim government pledged to speed up restructuring the army and said that "negligent" army commanders "will be punished."

Al-Qaida took advantage of last year's uprising against Saleh to seize several towns in the south. Poorly equipped and trained Yemeni armed forces have failed to regain control.



The Financial & Insurance Services Group, Inc.

REPOSSESSED VEHICLE FOR SALE

AS IS CONDITION: NO WARRANTIES EXPRESSED OR IMPLIED

YEAR:	MAKE:	MODEL:	LIC NO:
2002 2007	TOYOTA YAMAHA MOTORCYCLE	HIGHLANDER XVS 650	ABW 930 MAB 388

The Financial & Insurance Services Group, Inc. (FISG) is now accepting sealed bid on the above mention vehicle & motorcycle at the main office located in the Cabrera Center on Beach Road Garapan, Saipan.

FISG reserves the right to refuse any and all bids. Vehicle is sold AS IS with no Warranties, Expressed or Implied.

Deadline for bidding is on March 09, 2012.

For more information, contact Diego Masga, collection Department at 234-5706 / 8615.

If You Bought a TV, Monitor, or Notebook Computer That Contained a Flat Panel Screen

Lawsuits and Settlements Could Affect You.

There are lawsuits involving the price of thin film transistor liquid crystal display ("TFT-LCD") Flat Panels purchased indirectly from the Defendants. "Indirectly" means that you purchased the TFT-LCD Flat Panel from someone other than the manufacturer of the Flat Panel.

Settlements have been reached with seven Defendants (Chimei Innolux Corp.; Chunghwa Picture Tubes Ltd.; Epson Imaging Devices Corp.; HannStar Display Corp.; Hitachi Displays, Ltd.; Samsung Electronics Co., Ltd.; and Sharp Corp.). Three Defendants (AU Optronics Corp.; LG Display Co. Ltd.; Toshiba Corp.; and their U.S. affiliates) have not agreed to settle so the lawsuits continue against them.

What are the lawsuits about?

The lawsuits claim that the Defendants conspired to fix, raise, maintain or stabilize prices of TFT-LCD Flat Panels resulting in overcharges to consumers who bought products containing the panels. The litigation is asking for money and an order to stop the Defendants' alleged behavior that is the subject of these lawsuits. The Defendants deny Plaintiffs' allegations or that indirect purchasers suffered any overcharge. The Court has not decided who is right.

Who is included in the lawsuits?

The case is proceeding to recover money for consumers in 24 states and the District of Columbia and governmental entities in eight states, and for nationwide injunctive relief to stop the Defendants' alleged behavior.

Statewide Damages Classes: Generally, include any person or business that indirectly purchased TFT-LCD panels incorporated in TVs, monitors and/or notebook computers from one or more of the Defendants or Quanta Display Inc., from 1999 to 2006, for their own use and not for resale, while residing in the 24 states or DC. The purchase must have been made in the same state where the person or business resided. The specific class definitions, including exceptions to Class membership, are available at www.LCDclass.com.

The 24 states are: AZ, AR, CA, FL, HI, IA, KS, ME, MA, MI, MN, MS, MO, NV, NM, NY, NC, ND, RI, SD, TN, VT, WV and WI.

Nationwide Class: Includes any person or business that indirectly purchased in the U.S., TFT-LCD panels incorporated in TVs, monitors and/or notebook computers, from one or more of the Defendants or Quanta Display Inc., between 1999 and the present, for their own use and not for resale, and reside in the U.S. as of the date of this notice.

Attorneys General Actions: The Attorneys General of AR, CA, FL, MI, MO, NY, WV and WI are participating in these Settlements to resolve related claims arising from the same allegations as asserted in the class actions: (1) on behalf of state residents under the doctrine of *parens patriae*, which allows a state to bring a lawsuit on behalf of its citizens, and/or for governmental entities; and (2) for civil penalties.

What do the Settlements provide?

There are seven Settlements, totaling \$538,555,647, being presented to the Court for approval. Any interest earned will be added to the Settlement Fund. The Settlement Fund will be used to pay individual and business consumers in the 24 states and DC, and governmental entity consumers in the eight states. Some Settling Defendants also are paying civil penalties to the Attorneys General. More details are in Settlement Agreements and other documents available at www.LCDclass.com. The cost to administer the Settlements, as well as attorneys' fees, costs and expenses, and payments to the Class Representatives, will come out of the Settlement Fund. In the future, Plaintiffs' counsel will request attorneys' fees not to exceed one-third of the Settlement Fund, plus reimbursement of costs and expenses. The attorneys also may ask the Court to permit the use of money from the Settlement Fund to help finance the ongoing litigation.

The Settling Defendants have agreed not to engage in conduct that is at issue in these lawsuits and will establish (or maintain) a program

to educate their employees about complying with the law, and will cooperate with the Plaintiffs in their ongoing litigation against the Non-Settling Defendants.

How can I get a payment?

No money will be distributed yet. Plaintiffs' counsel will pursue the lawsuits against the Non-Settling Defendants. All funds received in this case will be distributed together at the conclusion of the lawsuits or as ordered by the Court. You will need to file a valid claim to receive a payment. Notice about the claims process will be made available at a later date. If you want to receive notice about the claims process or future settlements you should register at www.LCDclass.com.

What are my rights?

If you do nothing, your rights will be affected. If you do not want to be legally bound by the lawsuits, you must exclude yourself from the Classes or the Attorneys General Actions. The deadline to exclude yourself is **April 13, 2012**. If you do not exclude yourself you will not be able to sue the Defendants for any claim relating to the lawsuits. If you reside outside of the 24 states or DC you will retain any right you have to sue the Defendants for monetary relief.

The Court will hold a hearing on **May 18, 2012** to consider whether to approve the Settlements. If you stay in the Classes, you may object to the Settlements by **April 13, 2012**. You or your own lawyer may appear and speak at the hearing at your own expense. **Any request for exclusion or objection must be mailed to: LCD Class, P.O. Box 8025, Faribault, MN 55021-9425.**

A class action trial against the Non-Settling Defendants is scheduled to begin on April 23, 2012. A second trial, involving the claims of the Attorneys General of AR, FL, MO, MI, WV and WI, is set to begin on November 5, 2012. Additional trials involving the claims of the Attorneys General of CA and NY may take place at a later date.

For More Information: 1-855-225-1886 www.LCDclass.com Text: "LCDclass" to 41513 (Text messaging rates may apply)

Off The Wall

Presidential McNugget sells for \$8K

DAKOTA CITY, Neb. (AP)—Call it McWashington.

A Nebraska woman has sold a three-year-old McDonald's Chicken McNugget that resembles President George Washington for \$8,100 on eBay.

The Sioux City Journal in Iowa says bidding ended just after 11:30 a.m. Monday.

Rebekah Speight of Dakota City sold the McNugget to raise money for a drive to raise \$15,000 and send 50 children to summer church camp in Sioux City.

Speight says her children didn't eat the chicken during a McDonald's visit three years ago. She was about to toss it, then spotted Washington's resemblance. Speight stashed the McNugget in her freezer.

eBay had temporarily taken down the auction last month



In this Feb. 21, 2012 file photo, a McDonald's Chicken McNugget found by Rebekah Speight of Dakota City, which she believes resembles President George Washington is placed next to a U.S. quarter dollar bearing the image of the president.

because it violated rules regulating expired food.

She later received an email

saying the site was "willing to make exceptions to help your cause."

Detroit-area woman stalked by aggressive turkey

COMMERCE TOWNSHIP, Mich. (AP)—An Oakland County woman says she's become a prisoner on her own property, stalked and harassed by a 25-pound turkey.

Edna Geisler calls the foul bird "Godzilla." The 69-year-old told the *Detroit Free Press* that the turkey wanders near her Commerce Township property each day from nearby woods. She recently couldn't get to her front door after a trip to the grocery store.

"I have to go to the post office at 6 o'clock in the morning to avoid him," said Geisler, who has been bumped and clawed.

She has tried changing her schedule but this turkey is no dummy. A friend, Rick Reid, said the turkey went after him, too, when he opened the door on his minivan.

"He tried to come right in the door," Reid said. "He bit me on the elbow."

Indeed, a video posted online by the Free Press shows Godzilla roaming the grounds like they're his own. State wildlife expert Tim Payne said adult turkeys are known to aggressively defend their territory, although most fear people.

"This bird has probably attacked, and the person re-

treats," said Payne of the Department of Natural Resources. "What it tells the bird is, 'What I'm doing is good.' It reinforces the aggressive behavior."

Payne suggested Geisler open a large umbrella to drive the turkey back to the woods.

"Make some runs at the bird and become the aggressor," he said. "The bird needs to learn who's the boss."

Geisler wants the turkey gone by summer so she can work in her garden. The hunting season opens in April.

"Every time I eat turkey I smile," she said. "I'd like to do that to him."

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

SC county GOP wants hopefuls to sign purity pledge

LAURENS, S.C. (AP)—A county Republican group in South Carolina wants its candidates to promise to not cheat on their spouses and not watch pornography. But the state GOP says it would be illegal to keep candidates off the ballot only because they refuse to sign the pledge. Bobby Smith, the chairman of the Laurens County Republicans, says the "purity pledge" endorsed by the group last month is meant to encourage good values in the party's candidates. He says it won't prevent anyone from getting on the ballot. The pledge would require candidates to promise they have not had premarital sex and will protect gun rights and oppose abortion, among other things.

Police: Pa. man tries high-fiving cop who gave DUI

TYRONE, Pa. (AP)—Police say a central Pennsylvania man thanked and tried to high-five the officer who flagged him down for driving without his lights—only to then be arrested on a drunken driving charge. The *Altoona Mirror* reports that Gerald Decker was driving early Feb. 19 when a Tyrone officer noticed that Decker's car didn't have its lights on and flagged him down. Officer Adam Bonsell says Decker told him, "Thanks, buddy," and tried to high-five him. Bonsell told him, "That's not how it works" and gave Decker field sobriety tests. Police say Decker's blood-alcohol content was 2 1/2 times the legal limit for drivers.

2 cross-country walkers meet on opposite paths

FRANKLIN, La. (AP)—Two men walking across country from opposite coasts ran into each other in south Louisiana. The *Morgan City Daily Review* reports that 23-year-old Andrew Forsthoefel of Chadds Ford, Pa., and 36-year-old George Throop of Vancouver, Wash., met Sunday in Franklin and continued their walks Monday. Forsthoefel had walked about 1,400 miles since leaving Pennsylvania on Oct. 14. He's listening to people's stories with the idea that everyone's a hero. His blog says Throop was only the third fellow-traveler he's met. The others were some hitchhikers outside Greenville, S.C., and Bong Song—a South Korean who's bicycling around the world, and whom he met in Pascagoula, Miss. Throop has walked more than 3,300 miles since leaving Vancouver on Sept. 20, 2009, to inspire healthier lifestyles.

Piglet found running around Hawaii hotel lobby

HONOLULU (AP)—Guests at a hotel near Honolulu's airport found a suckling pig in the lobby, but it wasn't on the menu of the luau. They called the Hawaiian Humane Society last week, when a 5-week-old female pig was found running around the lobby. It was unclear how the piglet ended up there. Humane society spokeswoman Tasha Tanimoto says the pig is healthy and has been named Pukalani. She will be available for adoption once she's a little older. Tanimoto says the piglet is being bottle-fed by a volunteer. Humane society officials aren't sure of the pig's breed, but

a veterinarian suspects she will grow to be quite large.

Officer probed for moving mattresses on patrol car

MIAMI (AP)—A veteran Miami police officer caught using her patrol car to haul mattresses has been relieved of duty with pay while the department investigates. Several Miami television stations aired viewers' video or photos of the marked patrol car with mattresses fastened to the top on Monday. Officer Sandra Lyles' vehicle, gun and badge have been taken. The 32-year veteran of the Miami-Dade Police Department is set to retire Monday, but a police spokeswoman said the investigation wouldn't affect her retirement. Major Nancy Perez, the department spokeswoman, says Lyles violated department policy and embarrassed herself.

Ala. House resolution jokes money to grow on trees

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (AP)—A Democrat has introduced a resolution in Alabama's House that apparently mocks Republican job-creation efforts by joking that scientists will soon grow money on trees. The resolution by Rep. Daniel Boman also claims in jest that large class sizes are good for students seeking to "make more friends." It also quips: "Alabama's children should be helping our economy by working and not by learning useless skills such as reading, writing and arithmetic that are completely unessential in today's economy." Republicans weren't amused.

FOR SALE

Aluminum Container (will not rust) Converted to Guest House/Studio

Furnished with split type aircon, built-in shower, vanity with large mirror and separate toilet. Also has sliding patio door with vertical blinds. All in good condition.

\$11,999.00 OBO

Serious inquiries only. Contact Mila at 234-2440

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.mp

AMENDMENT #01 PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, through its Chairwoman of the Board, is hereby giving notice that the Special Meeting of the Board is scheduled on **Friday, March 9, 2012 at 4:00 p.m. at the NMHC Conference Room, Garapan, Saipan.** The public is welcome to submit written or oral comments regarding the agenda below. Individuals interested in attending the meeting and needing special accommodations are requested to contact NMHC in advance.

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS

- a. Call to Order
- b. Roll Call
- c. Adoption of Agenda

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

III. GARAPAN ANNEX RFP

IV. FISCAL AFFAIRS

- a. Fiscal Review

V. EXECUTIVE SESSION

VI. OTHER MATTERS

VII. ADJOURNMENT

(Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a) (7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session.)

/s/ **MARCIE M. TOMOKANE**
Chairwoman of the Board

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticpm.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE SERVICES FOR THE AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL TOWER (ATCT) PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-001-12

AMENDED REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting sealed proposals for Preventive Maintenance of the Air Traffic Control Tower at the Saipan International Airport on the Island of Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The scope of work entails providing monthly maintenance services for the Tower, the Base Building and its surroundings. The proposal package which includes the scope of work, evaluation factors, and draft agreement will be available at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, 2nd Floor of the Arrival Building beginning Tuesday, March 6, 2012. Proposers must submit all required documents listed in the scope of work. All responses to this RFP shall also take into account any and all costs that will be charged to the proposer awarded the contract for the project. Proposers shall also take into consideration all necessary badging requirements and fees for this project.

All proposals shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: "Proposal for the Preventive Maintenance of the Air Traffic Control Tower at the Saipan International Airport". One original and two (2) copies of the proposal must be submitted no later than **4:30 P.M. LOCAL TIME, MONDAY, APRIL 9, 2012**, to the Office of the Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport.

All proposals will be evaluated based on the following factors: (1) price, (2) company experience, (3) insurance requirements, (4) schedule of operation, (5) sufficiency of workers, and (6) financial capability.

Contractor will be required to obtain insurance policies based on CPA's requirements. Copies of the insurance requirements may be obtained with the scope of work at the office of the Executive Director.

A pre-proposal meeting will be held at the CPA Conference Room, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport at 2:00 p.m., Thursday, March 22, 2012 to explain and clarify any questions regarding this project which will be followed with a walk through of the facility. Questions must be in writing and faxed to the Executive Director at (670) 234-5962 or via email at cpa.admin@pticpm.com at least seven (7) days prior to the pre-proposal conference.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request for Proposals; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding proposal rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

CPA assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of offeror's preparation of the proposal or supply under the contract. This RFP does not commit CPA to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services.

Offerors will be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal laws. This RFP and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CPA Procurement Regulations.

All proposals shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority. Proposals received after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstances.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

/s/ **EDWARD M. DELEON GUERRERO**
Executive Director

03/07/2012
Date:

F. MATTHEW SMITH
Law Office Of F. Matthew Smith, LLC
2nd Floor, MIC Building,
Chalan Monsignor Guerrero
San Jose Village
P.O. Box 501127, Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone No.: (670) 234-7455/234-7427
Facsimile No.: (670) 234-7256

Attorneys for Petitioner
Commonwealth Development Authority.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In the Matter of the Estate of	Civil Action No. 12-0053
JOSE DELEON GUERRERO DIAZ,	
Deceased.	NOTICE OF HEARING/ NOTICE TO CREDITORS

**TO: THE HEIRS, GENERAL PUBLIC
AND CREDITORS OF THE DECEDENT OR OF
HIS ESTATE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Petitioner Commonwealth Development Authority has filed a Petition for Letters of Administration in the above-entitled action.

A HEARING on the Petition for Letters of Administration will be conducted by the Court on April 10, 2012, at 1:30 p.m. in Courtroom 202, CNMI Superior Court.

All persons interested are hereby notified to appear at the hearing and show cause, if any, why the order appointing Debra Amalia Diaz Teregyo, as Administratrix should not be made.

FURTHER NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to Rules 21 and 11 of the Commonwealth Rules of Probate, to all creditors of the decedent or his estate that they must file their claims with the Clerk of Court within sixty (60) days of the first publication of this notice. A copy of the claim of any creditor should be sent to Debra Amalia Diaz Teregyo at P.O. Box 501753, Saipan, MP 96950. Reference is hereby made to the Petition for Letters of Administration for further particulars

/s/Clerk of Court

F. MATTHEW SMITH
Law Office Of F. Matthew Smith, LLC
2nd Floor, MIC Building,
Chalan Monsignor Guerrero
San Jose Village
P.O. Box 501127, Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone No.: (670) 234-7455/234-7427
Facsimile No.: (670) 234-7256

Attorneys for Petitioner
Commonwealth Development Authority.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In the Matter of the Estate of	Civil Action No. 12-0054
THERESITA BLAS DIAZ,	
Deceased.	NOTICE OF HEARING/ NOTICE TO CREDITORS

**TO: THE HEIRS, GENERAL PUBLIC
AND CREDITORS OF THE DECEDENT OR OF
HIS ESTATE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Petitioner Commonwealth Development Authority has filed a Petition for Letters of Administration in the above-entitled action.

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/s/Clerk of Court

Science & Technology

Apple unveils 'new iPad'

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Apple gave the new iPad a bunch of new features but no new name.

When it goes on sale next week in the U.S. and several other countries, it will be "the iPad" or perhaps "the new iPad"—not "iPad 3" or "iPad HD," as some had speculated.

The new iPad unveiled Wednesday comes with improvements that may not be readily apparent to the casual observer. It has, as expected, a sharper screen, driven by a faster processing chip that acts as the "brains" of the device. What was more surprising was that the new features mean the tablet computer will be slightly thicker and heavier than the iPad 2, because it needs a larger battery to power the high-resolution screen.

Prices aren't changing from the previous models. They will start at \$499. Versions capable of accessing cellular networks will cost \$629 to \$829.

Apple is keeping the basic model of the iPad 2 in production and dropping the price to \$399. That could help Apple regain some market share from cheaper tablets like Amazon.com Inc.'s \$199 Kindle Fire. Samsung Electronics and other makers of full-size tablets have cut their prices to below \$500.

The battery life of the new model remains the same: about 10 hours of use. Apple says the battery capacity is 70 percent higher than for the old model, which suggests that it could have kept the old screen and extended the battery life to 17 hours instead of upgrading the screen resolution.

Apple said the new display will be sharper than the average high-definition television set. In a hands-on demonstration for an

Associated Press reporter, text shown on the screen was noticeably crisper. The higher resolution won't make a difference, however, for most Web images, which are of low resolution. The new screen should be able to show all the detail in high-definition movies, which the iPad 2 does not.

The new screen can also show deeper and more vibrant colors than previous models, Apple said.

"We are taking it to a whole new level and are redefining the category that Apple created with the original iPad," said Apple Inc. CEO Tim Cook at the launch event in San Francisco.

Cook spoke of a "post-PC" era dominated by the iPad and other Apple products.

The new iPad will go on sale March 16 in the U.S., Canada and 10 other countries. A week later, it will go on sale in 25 more countries.

The lack of a new name could cause confusion for buyers, particularly since the older model, the "iPad 2," will still be sold. But the naming practice is consistent with Apple's practices for the iPod. New models have been simply called "iPod." Consumers are left to figure out which generation of the product they are looking for.

Compared with the iPad 2, the new model features a higher-resolution camera on the back, similar to the one in the iPhone 4S.

The new iPad will be 9.4 millimeters thick, or 0.37 inches. That compares with 8.8 millimeters, or 0.34 inches, for the iPad 2. The weight is going up from 1.33 pounds to 1.44 pounds for the Wi-Fi-only model. The original iPad weighed 1.5 pounds.

AT A GLANCE

Here's a look at the key differences between the new iPad, the iPad 2 and the original iPad.

NEW IPAD TECH SPECS:

- Prices: 16-gigabyte Wi-Fi-only model for \$499, 32 gigabytes for \$599 and 64 gigabytes for \$699. 4G models cost \$130 more.
- Screen size: 9.7 inches diagonally
- Thickness: 0.37 inch
- Weight: 1.44 pounds (1.46 pounds for 4G model)
- Screen resolution: "Retina display," 2048 by 1536 pixels
- Cameras: 5-megapixel camera on back and a low-resolution camera on front, for videoconferencing
- Video recording: high-definition (1080p—comparable to the resolution of a 40-inch flat-panel TV), up to 30 frames per second with audio

- Battery life: 10 hours.
- Dual-core A5X processor (quad-core graphics subsystem)
- U.S. wireless carriers: AT&T, Verizon Wireless
- U.S. release date: March 16, 2012

IPAD 2 TECH SPECS:

- Prices: 16-gigabyte model with Wi-Fi for \$399, 3G-capable version for \$529 (Originally same as new iPad pricing)
- Screen size: same as new iPad
- Thickness: 0.34 inch
- Weight: 1.33 pounds (1.35-1.36 pounds for 3G models)
- Screen resolution: 1024 by 768 pixels
- Cameras: High-definition (720p) camera on back and a low-resolution camera on front, for videoconferencing
- Video recording: high-definition (720p—comparable to the resolution of a 40-inch

flat-panel TV), up to 30 frames per second with audio

- Battery life: 10 hours.
- Dual-core A5 processor
- U.S. wireless carriers: AT&T, Verizon Wireless
- U.S. release date: March 11, 2011

ORIGINAL IPAD TECH SPECS:

- Prices: No longer on sale. Originally same as new iPad
- Screen size: same as new iPad
- Thickness: 0.50 inch
- Weight: 1.5 pounds
- Screen resolution: same as iPad 2
- Cameras: none
- Video recording: none
- Battery life: 10 hours.
- Single-core A4 processor
- U.S. wireless carriers: AT&T
- U.S. release date: April 3, 2010



In Humble Gratitude

We, the family of the late

† *Antonio Muña Dela Cruz*

Would like to convey our sincere gratitude to the many individuals who offered words of encouragement and prayers, during the nightly rosaries since the passing of our beloved husband, father, brother, grandfather and uncle †Antonio who was called to eternal rest at the age of 61 on February 21, 2012.

Our sincere thanks to Reverend Fr. Sid Ogunoro who celebrated the Mass of Christian Burial & San Jose Church, Tinian Choir for the beautiful music.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank the Tinian Mayor's Office employees, Tinian Joint Delegation, 13th Tinian Municipal Council, Tinian Health Center, Department of Public Safety, the Techa-Mrs. Lucia Sn. Masga, Juana (Mary) Muna, Crystal Ice & Water Co., Frank Cabrera of Cabrera's Funeral Services, family and friends from Saipan & Guam and to the many others who provided assistance to us in one way or another, during and after the passing of our beloved †Antonio, your Generosity and Selfless Support is truly appreciated.

Un Sen Dankulo Na Si Yu'os Ma'ase & God Bless.

*Jesusa Aguon Dela Cruz and Children
Dela Cruz Family*

*"Death leaves a heartache no one can heal.
Love leaves a memory no one can steal..."*

SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE



MARGARITA "MAG" SEMAN JOHNSON
MARCH 27, 1951 – MARCH 4, 2012

This is to inform all our family, friends, and relatives that "Mag" passed away at Lakewood, Washington on Sunday, March 4, 2012 at the age of 60.

Viewing and Memorial Service will be on Sunday, March 11, 2012 at the Mountain Valley Funeral Home 4100 Steilacoom Blvd. SW Lakewood, Washington



Service of Remembrance on Saipan will be held on Saturday, March 10, 2012 at 10:00 A.M. at the Grace Christian Chapel At Navy Hill.

Life & Style

Teenager petitions to change R rating for 'Bully'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Katy Butler hasn't forgotten what it was like to be bullied in the seventh grade, when a group of boys surrounded her, taunted her and broke her finger by slamming it into a locker.

Now 17, Butler has become the face of a campaign to change the rating of "Bully," a documentary that tracks victims and perpetrators of bullying in American schools. The film, set

for release this month, has been rated R for its language content.

Butler, along with distributors the Weinstein Co., wants the rating changed to PG-13 so more young people can see it.

"This could change bullying and save lives," the high-school junior from Ann Arbor, Mich., said.

The Weinstein Co. appealed the R-rating, but the Motion Picture Association of America, which oversees movie ratings, declined to change it. That inspired Butler to start an online campaign on Change.org, a website that publishes community petitions and funded Butler's trip to Los Angeles.

The teenage activist collected more than 200,000 signatures in just 10 days and delivered them Wednesday to the MPAA's headquarters in hopes it might reconsider its decision.

Among the signatories is Ellen DeGeneres, who discussed the film on Wednesday's episode of her talk show.

"I can tell you after seeing this movie, the lessons that the kids learn from this movie are more important than any words they might hear—and they're words they already know anyway," DeGeneres said.

She introduced Butler, who was sitting in the audience, and told the teen: "Good for you. I'm proud of you." So far, more

than 224,000 people have signed Butler's online petition with the headline: "MPAA: Don't let the bullies win! Give 'Bully' a PG-13 instead of an R rating!"

Butler carted four boxes packed with papers containing the signatures she collected into the MPAA building in Los Angeles. Officials met with the teenager and her mother but have declined to revise the film's rating.

"Even though we think this is a wonderful film and very worthwhile film for people to see, our main purpose is to give parents information on the level of content," Joan Graves, chairman of the classification and rating administration, said in an in-

terview. "She wants us to ignore the level of content because this is a good film, and we can't do that. We have to be consistent."

Graves said the organization often meets with individuals and groups seeking changes in film ratings, but this is the first time a teenager has spearheaded such a campaign.

"We always pay attention to groups who are trying to give us information about how they feel," Graves said. "Our whole goal is to rate films the way the majority of American parents would rate them."

Butler's mother, Anne Butler, has seen "Bully" and calls it "important and empowering," despite the profanity it contains.

In Loving Memory

Juan Norman Laraol Nekaifes

was called to his eternal rest on March 04, 2012 at the Commonwealth Health Center

In his new life, he now joins his:

Father: †Jose R. Nekaifes

Mother: †Agnes O. Laraol

Brothers: †Gregorio and †Victor Romolor

†David and †Mario Nekaifes

Sisters: †Elisa Fitial and †Marcelina Somorang

His memories will live in the hearts of his:

Wife: Mely SP. Nekaifes

Children: John Joseph SP. Nekaifes, Andy SP. Nekaifes, Paulino SP. Nekaifes

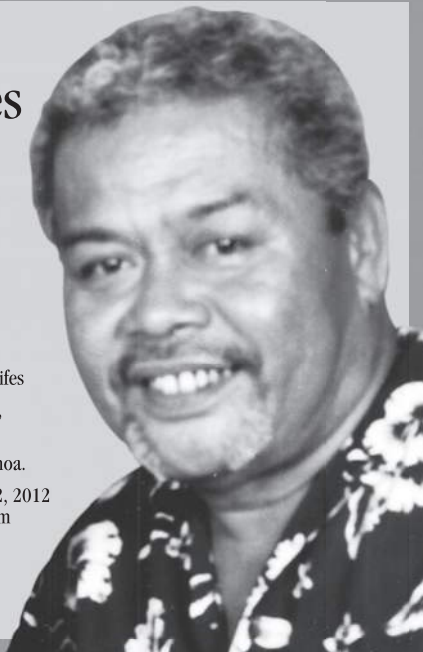
He will also be greatly missed by his brothers, sisters, nephews, nieces, aunts, uncles, cousins and friends.

Nightly rosary is being prayed at 7:30pm at the family residence in Chalan Kanoa.

His remains will be escorted from CHC to his residence on Monday, March 12, 2012 at 7:00am for final viewing. Mass of Christian Burial will be offered at 11:00am followed by interment service at Mount Carmel Cemetery.

Your presence and prayers are greatly appreciated.

The Family



First Year Death Anniversary

In Loving Memory of

†Jesus Ricardo Palacios Agulto

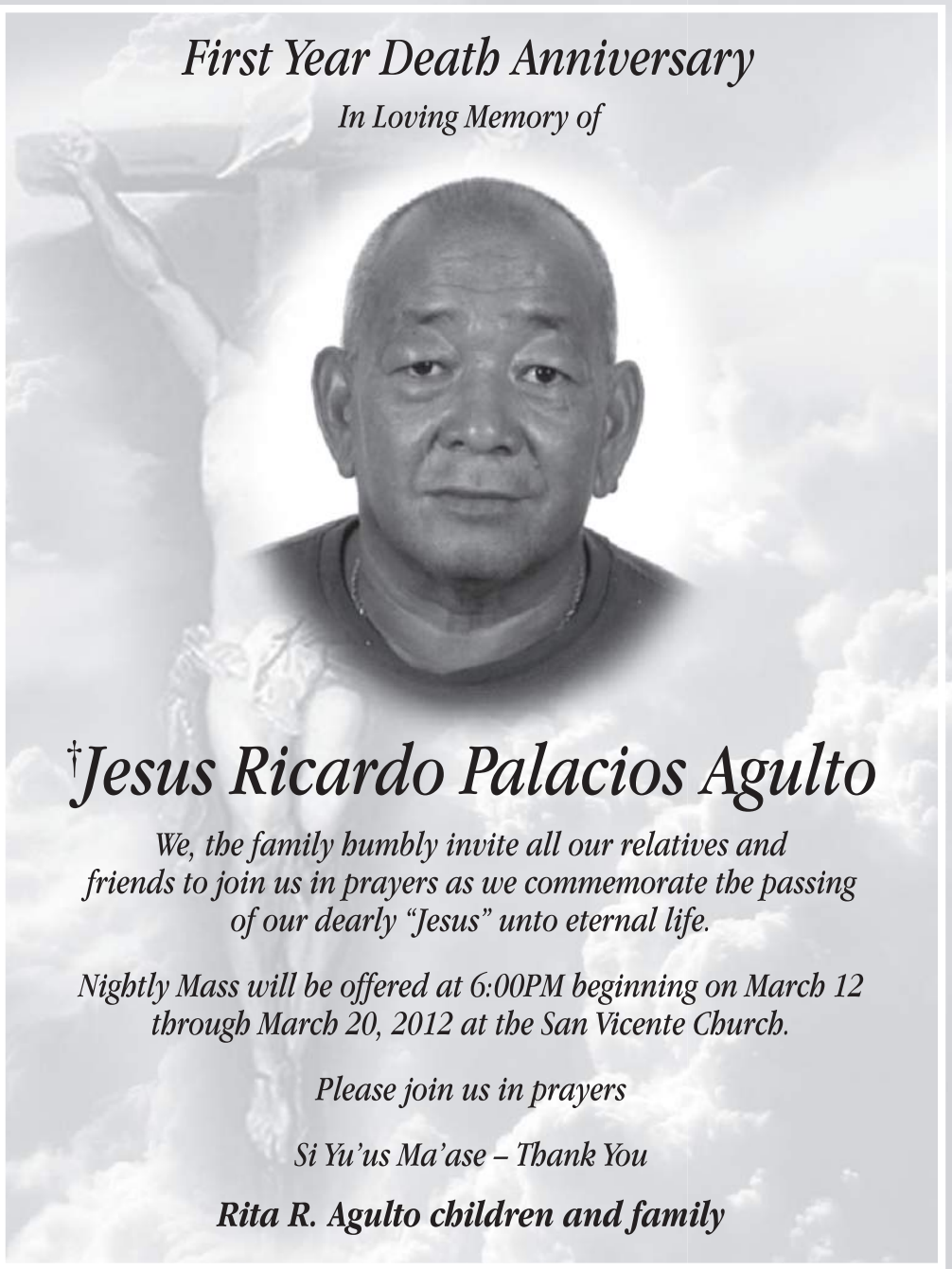
We, the family humbly invite all our relatives and friends to join us in prayers as we commemorate the passing of our dearly "Jesus" unto eternal life.

Nightly Mass will be offered at 6:00PM beginning on March 12 through March 20, 2012 at the San Vicente Church.

Please join us in prayers

Si Yu'us Ma'ase – Thank You

Rita R. Agulto children and family



Funeral Announcement

VICENTE MANGLONA ATALIG

MAY 27, 1963 - MARCH 2, 2012

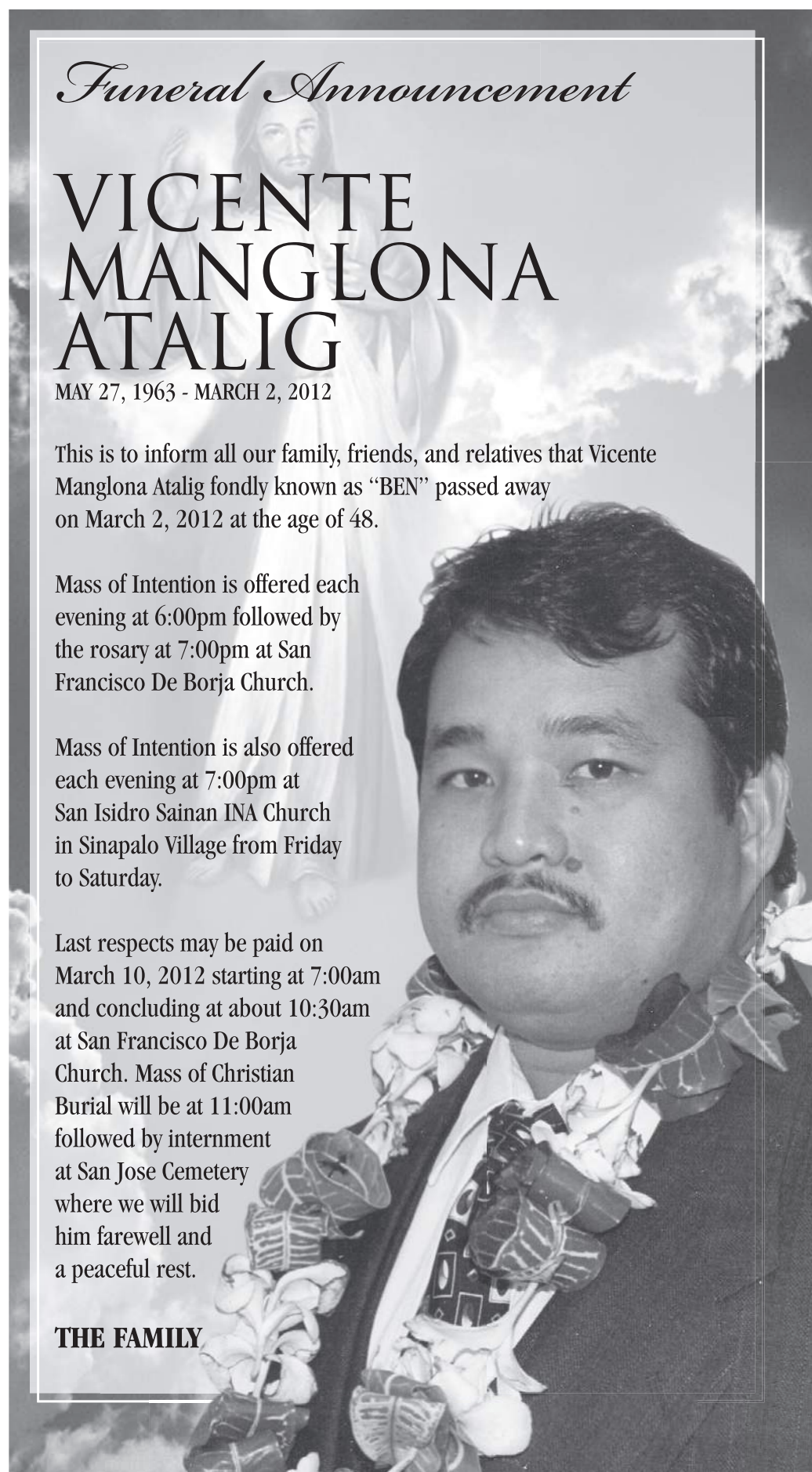
This is to inform all our family, friends, and relatives that Vicente Manglona Atalig fondly known as "BEN" passed away on March 2, 2012 at the age of 48.

Mass of Intention is offered each evening at 6:00pm followed by the rosary at 7:00pm at San Francisco De Borja Church.

Mass of Intention is also offered each evening at 7:00pm at San Isidro Sainan INA Church in Sinapalo Village from Friday to Saturday.

Last respects may be paid on March 10, 2012 starting at 7:00am and concluding at about 10:30am at San Francisco De Borja Church. Mass of Christian Burial will be at 11:00am followed by interment at San Jose Cemetery where we will bid him farewell and a peaceful rest.

THE FAMILY



Police finally find family of dead twins

By CRISTINA SILVA
ASSOCIATED PRESS

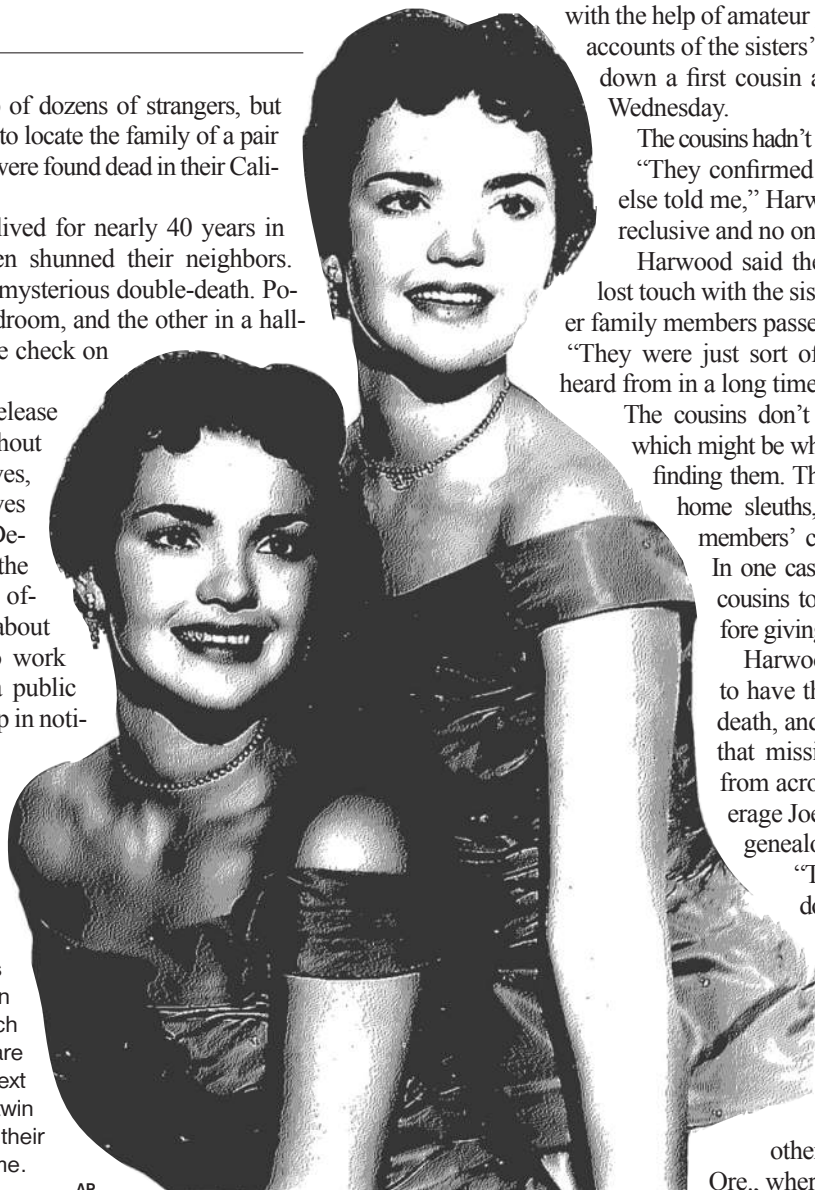
It took 11 days and the help of dozens of strangers, but police have finally been able to locate the family of a pair of reclusive twin sisters who were found dead in their California home last month.

Patricia and Joan Miller lived for nearly 40 years in South Lake Tahoe but often shunned their neighbors. Their shared life ended in a mysterious double-death. Police found one sister in a bedroom, and the other in a hallway during a routine welfare check on Feb. 26. They were 73.

Police usually do not release the names of the dead without first informing their relatives, but the sisters' shrouded lives made that impossible, said Detective Matt Harwood with the El Dorado County sheriff's office. With little information about the twins' personal lives to work from, investigators issued a public plea this week asking for help in notifying the sisters' next of kin.

The response was overwhelming. Emails and phone calls poured in and

This undated copy of a photo provided by the El Dorado County Sheriff's Office shows twin sisters Patricia and Joan Miller. It is unknown which sister is which. Authorities are asking for help finding the next of kin for the two 73-year-old twin sisters found dead together in their South Lake Tahoe, Calif., home.



AP

with the help of amateur genealogists who read media accounts of the sisters' deaths, investigators tracked down a first cousin and two second cousins late Wednesday.

The cousins hadn't heard from the sisters in years.

"They confirmed pretty much what everyone else told me," Harwood said. "They were pretty reclusive and no one really knows why."

Harwood said the cousins told him they had lost touch with the sisters through the years as other family members passed away.

"They were just sort of the twins that no one had heard from in a long time," he said.

The cousins don't share the sisters' last name, which might be why police had such a hard time finding them. They were tracked down by at-home sleuths, who passed on the family members' contact information to police.

In one case, someone called one of the cousins to confirm their blood line before giving the name to Harwood.

Harwood said the sisters deserved to have their family know about their death, and he was pleased to complete that mission with help from "people from across the country, just your Average Joe wanting to try their hand on genealogy," he said.

"There's no way we could have done it without you guys in the press and literally hundreds of people just calling to help put the pieces together," Harwood said.

One of the second cousins lives in the San Francisco Bay area, and the two other cousins live in Portland, Ore., where the twins grew up.

Harvey Weinstein: French film's golden age is now

PARIS (AP)—Harvey Weinstein says "The Artist" is just the beginning.

"France is about to have a golden age of cinema," said the Hollywood titan, who produced the French-born silent film that captured the world's attention and five Academy Awards, including best picture.

Weinstein told The Associated Press on Wednesday that his optimism is driven in part by a French law cracking down on the Internet piracy that has strangled the U.S. movie and music industries.

The expansive New Yorker was feeling particularly well-disposed to France after a Paris party celebrating "The Artist" this week and getting the es-

teemed Legion of Honor award from French President Nicolas Sarkozy on Wednesday.

Sarkozy turned out to be a big movie buff, and Weinstein said that when they met, the French leader quoted from a five-hour documentary Weinstein and Martin Scorsese once did and praising Danish silent filmmaker Carl Dreyer.

"He sees a movie almost every day. ... He understands that movies can change somebody's life," Weinstein said.

Sarkozy's office wouldn't comment on the meeting with Weinstein, other than to say it took place.

Sarkozy, facing a tough bid for re-election next month, also understands that French cinema

would be in much worse shape without government subsidies, and made a point of saying so in a congratulatory letter to the "Artist" Oscar winners.

Thanks to that government support, the success of "The Artist," and especially the anti-piracy law that Sarkozy championed, "France is having its most robust cinema on a global basis than at any time," Weinstein said.

"Sarkozy has the guts to go and make the toughest content law in the world," he said. "It's given French cinema a rebirth."

The French law allows authorities to cut off Internet access to people who download illegally, with a three-strikes-and-you're-out system. Entertainment com-

panies have cheered it but critics say it threatens civil liberties and is difficult to fairly enforce.

Sarkozy also asked about Weinstein's upcoming film "Bully," a documentary examination of school bullying that follows five kids and families over the course of a school year.

"That it's on the French president's radar tells me, wow, we are having a bigger impact than I thought," he said.

In the United States, Weinstein is protesting the R rating given to the film because of six expletives. Such a rating means kids under 17 can't see it without an adult—which Weinstein says defeats the purpose of the film by limiting its accessibility to those it speaks to most, adolescents.

Network says airing Palin movie not about politics

NEW YORK (AP)—The ReelzChannel television network says it scheduled a pro-Sarah Palin documentary on the same weekend as HBO's "Game Change" debut strictly for business considerations, not political ones.

"The Undeclared," a Palin documentary by conservative filmmaker Stephen K. Bannon, will have its television premiere on Sunday. It will come 23 hours after HBO opens "Game Change," based on the 2008 campaign book by Mark Halperin and John Heilemann, and starring Julianne Moore as Palin.

Stan Hubbard, ReelzChannel CEO, said he licensed "The Undeclared" for the same reason that his network aired "The Kennedys" miniseries last

spring after it was dropped by the History channel—to draw attention to a nearly 6-year-old network with a low public profile. ReelzChannel is in 62 million homes, a little more than half the country.

"For a young network, public relations is important to us, which is why we hunt for opportunistic things," Hubbard said.

Hubbard said he found the former Alaska governor and 2008 GOP vice presidential candidate a fascinating figure, but he wasn't trying to lionize her.

"If HBO wanted to swap movies this weekend, I'd do

that in a second," he said.

Palin supporters have attacked "Game Change," although it's unclear whether any of them has seen it in advance. "The Undeclared" maker Bannon called it

a "fictionalized hit-piece" and has praised ReelzChannel's "courageous" decision to air his movie.

"Game Change," co-starring Woody Harrelson and Ed Harris, actually

strives for a balanced portrait, showing Palin overwhelmed at times after being thrust onto the presidential ticket and lashing out at some McCain aides but connecting with audiences and performing on



Palin

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John Carter

Friday		4:05	7:05	9:45
Saturday	1:05	4:05	7:05	9:45
Sunday	1:05	4:05	7:05	
Monday thru Thursday		4:05	7:05	

Taylor Kitsch, Lynn Collins
Fantasy, Science fiction • Rated PG 13

Synopsis
WALL-E's Andrew Stanton steps out from the world of animation into live-action with this adaptation of the Edgar Rice Burroughs character. Taylor Kitsch stars as John Carter, a Civil War soldier who finds himself magically teleported to the planet Mars, with fellow Wolverine star Lynn Collins joining him as love interest Dejah Thoris.

Silent House

Friday		4:30	7:30	9:50
Saturday	1:30	4:30	7:30	9:50
Sunday	1:30	4:30	7:30	
Monday thru Thursday		4:30	7:30	

Elizabeth Olsen, Adam Trese
Thriller • Rated R

Synopsis
Chris Kentis and Laura Lau (Open Water) return to terra firma for this remake of the "real time" Uruguayan thriller La Casa Muda. Their summer cottage vandalized by squatters during the off-season, Sarah (Elizabeth Olsen), her father, and her uncle begin the laborious process of cleaning the place up when noises from within hint they are not alone. Now the deeper Sarah ventures into the derelict building, the further the secrets of her dark past are dragged out into the light. As with La Casa Muda, Silent House was shot in one continuous take, a production style that allows the viewer to experience the swelling tension of Sarah's horror firsthand as she unlocks a diabolical mystery.

Dr. Seuss' The Lorax

Friday		4:10	7:10	9:30
Saturday	1:10	4:10	7:10	9:30
Sunday	1:10	4:10	7:10	
Monday thru Thursday		4:10	7:10	

Zac Efron, Taylor Swift
Children's/Family • Rated PG

Project X

Friday		4:20	7:20	9:35
Saturday	1:20	4:20	7:20	9:35
Sunday	1:20	4:20	7:20	
Monday thru Thursday		4:20	7:20	

Thomas Mann, Jonathan Brown
Comedy • Rated R

Act of Valor

Friday		4:00	7:00	10:00
Saturday	1:00	4:00	7:00	10:00
Sunday	1:00	4:00	7:00	
Monday thru Thursday		4:00	7:00	

Emilio Rivera, Roselyn Sanchez
Adventure, Action • Rated R

This Means War

Friday		4:25	7:25	9:40
Saturday	1:25	4:25	7:25	9:40
Sunday	1:25	4:25	7:25	
Monday thru Thursday		4:25	7:25	

Reese Witherspoon, Chris Pine
Comedy • Rated PG 13

Journey2: Mysterious Island

Friday		4:15	7:15	9:55
Saturday	1:15	4:15	7:15	9:55
Sunday	1:15	4:15	7:15	
Monday thru Thursday		4:15	7:15	

The Rock, Venessa Hudgens, Michael Caine
Adventure • Rated PG

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Teenager Sanchez wows 'American Idol' judges

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Gutsy "American Idol" contestant Jessica Sanchez took on Whitney Houston's biggest hit, delivering a performance that awed the show's judges.

The San Diego teenager sang "I Will Always Love

You" on Wednesday's performance show. She was "just amazing," according to judge Jennifer Lopez.

When host Ryan Seacrest asked the judges to name the night's top two contestants, Steven Tyler was ready. Said

Tyler: "Jessica Sanchez and Jessica Sanchez."

The 13 "American Idol" finalists performed as the Fox show marked its 400th episode. The male and female singers who rank lowest in the audience voting will be an-

nounced Thursday, with the judges then deciding which contestant will be bounced from the show.

"I Will Always Love You" was played at the funeral service for Houston, who died Feb. 11.

Jury hears 2 versions of when Sheridan's role cut

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A former writer on "Desperate Housewives" on Wednesday contradicted testimony by the show's creator that a decision to

kill off Nicollette Sheridan's role had been made four months before the actress claimed her boss struck her on the set.

The testimony by Lori Kirkland Baker was the latest twist in Sheridan's wrongful termination and battery lawsuit against "Housewives" creator and executive producer Marc Cherry and ABC.

Cherry and Baker told jurors how plots are discussed months in advance using index cards, brainstorming sessions and assistants taking notes.

Cherry testified that he announced at a writers' retreat in May 2008 that he had received authorization from top studio and network executives to kill off Sheridan's character Edie Britt. He said a photograph of note cards from the sessions that included the coded message "Steven drinks OJ" signaled that Britt's days were numbered.

Hours later, Baker testified that the first time she heard about the decision to kill Britt was in December 2008, the same month ABC cleared Cherry of wrongdoing in his dispute with Sheridan in September 2008.

The "Steven drinks OJ" message was a reference to O.J. Simpson, who was acquitted of killing his wife, Cherry testified. Steven was the name "Desperate Housewives" writers attached to Britt's husband for the fifth season, but the character's name was later changed to Dave.



In this July 27, 2011 file photo, actress Nicollette Sheridan poses for a portrait at during The Television Critics Association 2011 Summer Press Tour in Beverly Hills, Calif.

Baker said she remembered seeing a note card with the phrase "Dave drinks the OJ" to refer to Britt's death after Cherry told writers in December 2008 that Sheridan's role was being cut.

She acknowledged she was not present for all discussions about plot points. The former writer and co-executive producer said she considered suing Cherry after her contract was not renewed for the sixth season of "Desperate Housewives." She contacted Sheridan's attorney Mark Baute, who declined to take her case.

Former ABC studio executive Mark Pedowitz told jurors on Tuesday that he gave Cherry approval to kill off Britt at a

May 22, 2008, meeting that Baker did not attend. Pedowitz said he learned of Sheridan's accusation that Cherry struck her in the head from a National Enquirer story that ran in October 2008. He said he ordered a human resources investigation and was satisfied when its results cleared Cherry.

He said he wanted the investigation because he knew Sheridan's role would be eliminated and the dispute could cause problems. "I did not want the situation to play out like it is today, in court," Pedowitz said.

Cherry walked jurors through writers' notes that laid out possible plots for the fifth season of "Desperate Housewives." The notes included possible scenarios for Britt's death, which included her being beaten to death by her husband with a baseball bat and suspicion being cast on several major characters.

In the end, Britt's death came after she escaped being strangled and survived a car crash only to be electrocuted by a downed power line. Baute, in opening statements, called it a triple homicide that reflected Cherry's animosity toward Sheridan.

Cherry told jurors that he had contemplated killing Sheridan's character at the end of season three, but studio and network executives didn't approve. As he began to plan season five, he said he wanted to kill Britt as part of a "risky but potentially effective change to the series."

A.J., who would go on to fame as artist Sir Alfred Munnings, one of England's best painters of rural scenes.

"These artist colonies at this time, the early 20th century, were strange little places really," Stevens said. "People dressed in period clothing, but often wearing them in quite unusual ways and behaving, not necessarily according to how people might ordinarily have behaved."

"That's been quite fun to explore, it's not a conventional period drama in that sense, it's more a love story," he adds.

As for how the drama is going at his other historical project, "Downton Abbey," Stevens says it's been exciting to be back—and that new addition Shirley MacLaine has just completed shooting her scenes.

When he finishes the new season, however, he's ready to move on from the past.

"I would like to do something modern and possibly funny," Stevens smiles. "I seem to have not had many laughs for a while, so that would be nice."

Daughter raised in abusive home is burdened by past

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: My sisters and I grew up in a horrible household with our mother. She was not only OK with the severe abuse and neglect we suffered, she encouraged it. Now grown up, my sisters have moved out of state and have no contact with her. My contact with Mom is limited although I live close to her. My sisters want her to know nothing about them, and they are very cautious.

Recently, one of them had a beautiful baby. I'm happy for her. Because of the abuse she suffered during our childhood it was difficult for her to conceive, so this seems like a miracle.

I was given the news on the condition that Mom is not to know about the baby, nor is anyone who talks to her—aunts, uncles, children, grandchildren and our cousins. If I don't keep my promise, my sisters will cut me out of their lives, too.

I'm angry about it. I didn't hurt them, MOM did. I went through the same nightmare they experienced. How do I deal with all of this now?

PRISONER OF THE PAST

DEAR PRISONER: Your sisters have dealt with the abuse they suffered by going away, leaving all reminders behind. You chose to maintain contact with your mother. You have many valid reasons to be angry, but please do not aim your anger at your sisters for wanting to protect themselves from someone who condoned and encouraged their abuse.

Because you are having difficulty with your emotions, contact Childhelp to find the location of a qualified counselor near you. The toll-free number is 800-422-4453 and its website is www.childhelp.org. With professional help, you will be able to finally work through the feelings you have been avoiding for so long and start your own healing.

DEAR ABBY: We have two sons, a toddler and an infant. I'm a stay-at-home mom who plays in the mud, sand and dirt with her boys. I wear my bathing suit or a T-shirt and shorts. Later, we'll take a bath or shower together. It's safer and easier for me to be in the large, deep tub with them. We have bubbles, sing songs and make silly hairdos with shampoo. The boys never touch my body or point to my "parts."

My husband thinks I should be more modest, but I'm the one who nursed them. I'm the one they watch on the potty to learn. My nudity is never sexual in any way. Do you think it's OK for my boys to see me in the buff?

CAREFREE MOMMY IN SARASOTA

DEAR CAREFREE MOMMY: There is a difference between interacting with your very young boys and being sexually provocative. I see no harm in what you're doing. Be "modest" when the kids are a little older, but for now there's no danger of them building an unhealthy mother fixation.

DEAR ABBY: In the past you have asked readers to tell you their pet peeves. You know what really irks me? It's when a man I haven't seen for many years runs into me and has changed to the point of being unrecognizable—lost most or all his hair, stomach sagging to his groin and totally out of shape—and the first thing he says to me is, "Oh, you've gained weight!"

What can I say to these fools without slamming a mirror over their heads because apparently they don't own one?

NOT THE ONLY CHUBBY ONE IN TEXAS

DEAR NOT THE ONLY: Try this: "Have YOU looked in the mirror lately?"

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447.

'Downton' star gets another period project

LONDON (AP)—"Downton Abbey" star Dan Stevens has been spending twice as much time in the past.

Along with shooting the third season of the 1920s-set Golden-Globe-winning TV show, he's been filming and executive producing another period project in London, playing one side of an Edwardian love triangle in the movie, "Summer in February."

The tight schedule means Stevens is the earnest Matthew Crawley amid the upper crust of Downton Abbey one day—then a 1913 land agent who finds himself in a community of unconventional artists the next.

"It's been a bit of a headache, but fortunately they're not too far apart in terms of period, which is one good thing," Stevens told The Associated Press on the set of his new film in Twickenham, outside London.

Jumping between two sets is not something he'd do again, but "Summer in February" is a passion project for the



In this July 31, 2011 file photo, actor Dan Stevens poses for a portrait, in Beverly Hills, California.

29-year-old.

The film is based on a book by a teacher from his old school, Jonathan Smith, who also adapted the screenplay, and they had been talking about the project since the actor was a teenager.

"The book came out around the time that I met him and he always joked that if it got made into a film or TV show, that I'd make a good Gilbert," he said.

Based on a true story, Stevens' character is Gilbert Evans, a land agent for the Lamorna Valley estate in England's picturesque, southwestern county of Cornwall, which has become home to a group of artists.

Australian actress Emily Browning plays the object of his affection, Florence Carter-Wood, and Dominic Cooper is Evans' charismatic competition,

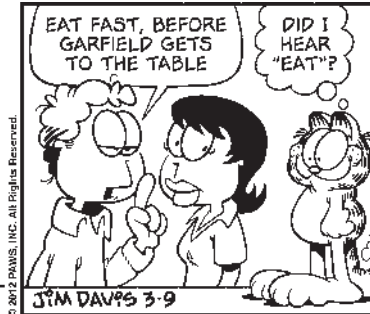
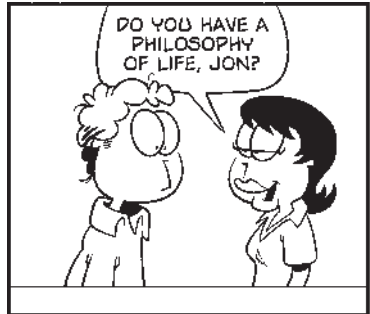
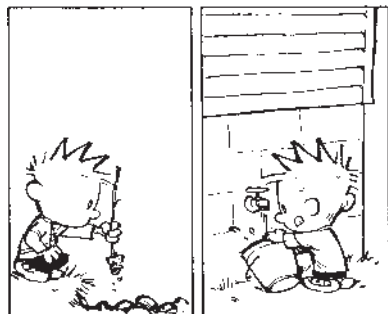
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

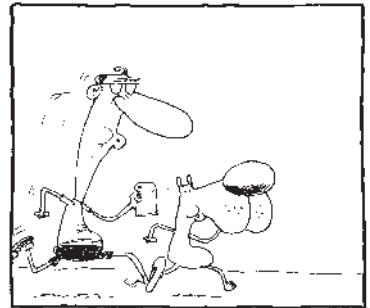
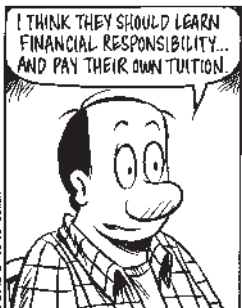
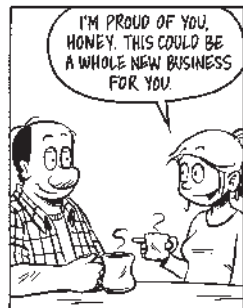


Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Corn spike
4 Stow cargo
8 Office note
12 Life story, for short
13 Lotion additive
14 Acknowledge
15 Unwanted repercussions
17 Cleo's river
18 Doctor's due
19 Stopped a squeak
20 Aesopian lesson
22 Transcending (Pref.)
24 Pavlov or Lendl
25 Ape
29 Calendar abbr.
30 Paycheck extra
31 Aye canceler
32 Rorschach patterns

DOWN

1 "Cabaret" lyricist
2 Have a bug
3 Car attachment
4 Tag
5 "Sad to say ..."
6 Elmer, to Bugs
7 "A mouse!"
8 "Flash-dance" song
9 Satanic agent
10 Double counter-part
11 Hadn't paid yet
16 Slowly withdraw (from)
19 Elevator name
20 Calf-length
21 It takes the cake
22 Like some mouth-wash
23 Ostriches' kin
25 Disposition
26 Hiker's carryall
27 Count counter-part
28 Unit of force
30 Mediocre
33 Trumpet sounds
34 Moist
36 Civvies
37 Legend
38 Vacillate
39 Use the microwave
40 Slender
42 Marry
43 Praise in verse
44 Miler Sebastian
45 "—Tiki"

Solution time: 25 mins.

S	I	R	E	C	A	M	D	H	O	W
A	D	E	N	A	L	I	E	E	R	O
R	E	A	M	I	L	L	B	A	B	E
I	M	P	A	I	R	L	A	U	D	
			S	M	O	K	I	N	G	G
C	L	A	S	P	R	O	Y	E	G	O
I	O	V	F	W	I	N	S	A	T	I
E	K	E	O	I	L	A	P	R	I	L
F	I	R	I	N	G	L	I	N	E	
	A	N	E	W	A	I	L	A	S	I
S	A	G	A	A	T	M	L	I	A	R
E	D	E	N	M	O	B	E	D	G	E
C	O	D	E	S	O	S	D	E	S	K

Yesterday's answer 3-9

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Bow Wow, 25; Brittany Snow, 26; Matthew Grey Gubler, 32; Juliette Binoche, 48.

Happy Birthday: Adapt to whatever change comes your way. Being able to slip into any situation and find ways to market what you have to offer will be key. Quick thinking will save you from loss, but it can also result in controversy that costs you in other ways. Being well-informed will be vital. Your numbers are 4, 11, 19, 27, 30, 39, 42.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Put some thought behind your next move. Impulse may be pushing you to take a leap of faith, but this time around you are best to take a practical approach to both personal and professional concerns. Focus on self-improvement for now. ★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Put more faith behind what you do and the skills and knowledge you can contribute to any group in which you participate. Charm, warmth and genuine affection will attract plenty of attention when it comes to love and dealing with important relationships. ★★★★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Use your ability to adapt to whatever comes your way and you will bypass a situation that leads to a no-win argument. Emotions will be skyrocketing, but if you channel your energy into love and romance, good relationships will evolve. ★★★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Not everyone will think the same way you do. Back up if someone tries to goad you

into a discussion that strikes an emotional chord. Focus on love and helping others, and work on creative projects that ease your stress. ★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Travel, learning and discovering new talents will all add to adventure, opportunities and new friendships. Take good care of your health. It will be easy for you to lose track of what you should be doing to ensure wellness. ★★★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Consider different ways to bring in extra income. Offering services or adding skills to what you already do will help you expand your client base. Draw on resources from your past to get ahead now. ★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Emotional discussions will lead to a stalemate. Look at what you can do to improve your domestic situation instead of making changes without consensus. You can improve your assets if you cut corners and stick to a budget. ★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Partnerships must be nurtured. Your dedication and relentless courage will convince others to get involved in something you feel has potential. Take suggestions seriously and you'll get further ahead. Love is highlighted, and celebrating should be scheduled. ★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Follow your heart in matters pertaining to home, family and reputation. Good fortune will come your way through a connection you make with someone you find quite unique. Honesty will pay off and help

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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you avoid an awkward situation. ★★★★★

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Don't overlook the way someone else feels about what you are doing. A problem will arise with a friend, relative or neighbor if you are critical. Fix up your home or look at investments that can alter your current lifestyle. ★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You'll excel at making last-minute changes to accommodate others. Your diverse and practical approach will bring you praise and rewards. Be honest with someone who wants more from you than you are able to give. ★★★★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Avoid erratic individuals trying to stir up conflict. Focus your efforts on your goals, or work overtime to help subsidize your income. An old friend or lover will play an important role in your life now. ★★

Birthday Baby: You are sensitive, intelligent and original. You are productive and proactive.

Eugenia's Web sites: eugenialast.com for confidential consultations, myspace.com/eugenialast for Eugenia's blog, astroadvice.com for fun

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

	3	6	2							
								4		
			9			8				7
				4			7		8	
2				8						9
6		1			5					
8				5			1			
	9									
						3	5	2		

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

3/09

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

8	4	6	1	9	2	5	7	3
1	7	9	6	5	3	2	8	4
2	3	5	4	7	8	9	6	1
7	1	4	8	2	5	6	3	9
9	6	2	7	3	1	4	5	8
3	5	8	9	4	6	7	1	2
4	8	1	2	6	7	3	9	5
5	9	7	3	1	4	8	2	6
6	2	3	5	8	9	1	4	7

Difficulty Level ★★★

3/09

STUMPED?

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

DO-IT-YOURSELF PROJECTS

Solution: 7 letters

P	S	D	E	S	I	G	N	S	W	O	D	N	I	W
R	L	H	R	I	H	S	T	E	N	I	B	A	C	O
O	A	A	E	Y	R	A	L	E	D	O	M	E	R	O
J	O	C	S	L	W	I	N	S	T	A	L	L	A	D
E	G	C	T	T	V	A	A	D	T	I	P	S	F	W
C	U	E	O	S	E	I	L	P	P	U	S	L	T	O
T	I	N	R	L	B	R	N	L	E	M	T	O	S	R
S	D	T	A	E	C	P	W	G	F	R	N	O	E	K
H	E	S	G	A	C	R	N	A	K	R	E	T	T	I
I	L	G	E	K	M	I	U	C	L	D	M	R	E	N
N	I	L	N	Y	K	C	E	H	I	L	E	I	L	G
G	N	O	S	A	E	D	I	V	T	E	S	C	P	L
L	E	O	B	T	H	O	U	S	E	A	A	K	M	U
E	S	P	A	C	E	C	N	E	F	O	B	S	O	E
S	T	O	C	K	I	T	C	H	E	N	V	E	C	S

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3/9

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Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

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Saipan Tribune

WORLD RESORT

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CLOSE DATE: March 9, 2012

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POSITION: Cook
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OPEN DATE: March 2, 2012
CLOSE DATE: March 9, 2012

Qualifications: High school graduate or equivalent required. Minimum two (2) years in food service preferred.

POSITION: Steward
SALARY: \$5.05/hr.

OPEN DATE: March 2, 2012
CLOSE DATE: March 9, 2012

Qualifications: High school graduate or equivalent required. Minimum two (2) years experience in a health club or spa preferred.

POSITION: Gym & Spa Attendant
SALARY: \$5.05/hr.

OPEN DATE: March 2, 2012
CLOSE DATE: March 9, 2012

Qualifications: High school graduate or equivalent required. Minimum two (2) years experience in hotel outlet operations required. Water Park or Amusement Park management/supervision experience highly preferred.

POSITION: Administrative Supervisor/ Water Park
SALARY: \$5.05-\$6.00/hr.

OPEN DATE: March 2, 2012
CLOSE DATE: March 9, 2012

Qualifications: High school graduate or equivalent required. Minimum two (2) years experience in a cashier type occupation preferred. Must have strong accounting and money handling skills. Must show strong integrity, honesty and morality.

POSITION: Cashier/Water Park
SALARY: \$5.05/hr.

OPEN DATE: March 2, 2012
CLOSE DATE: March 9, 2012

Qualifications: High school graduate or equivalent required. Must enjoy and be comfortable with young children.

POSITION: Kids College Staff/Water Park
SALARY: \$5.05/hr.

OPEN DATE: March 2, 2012
CLOSE DATE: March 9, 2012

Qualifications: High school graduate or equivalent required. First-aid and lifeguard certifications preferred, but not required. Sports, recreation, and hospitality industry experience also a plus.

POSITION: Prim/Lifeguard
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For more information, please contact Ms. Miriam K. Seman, Human Resources Team Manager at (670) 234-5900 ext. 274/266/576.

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Bidding begins for 4-time MVP Peyton's next place



INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—Sent packing by his only NFL team, one he transformed from afterthought to Super Bowl champion, Peyton Manning said goodbye to the Indianapolis Colts with a shaky voice and tear-filled eyes, then got ready to find a new place to play quarterback.

At a podium alongside owner Jim Irsay, who cut the injured star Wednesday rather than pay a whopping \$28 million bonus due this week, Manning was by turns wistful, nostalgic—he got choked up while praising the Colts' equipment managers—and forward-looking.

The only four-time MVP in NFL history now figures to become as coveted a free agent as the league has ever seen, assuming he can assuage any lingering concerns about the series of neck operations that forced him to miss all of 2011. Arizona, Miami, Seattle, Tennessee, Washington and the New York Jets all have been rumored as possible destinations; Manning's former offensive coordinator in Indianapolis, Tom Moore, worked for the Jets as a consultant last season.

"Nobody loves their job more than I do. Nobody loves playing quarterback more than I do. I still want to play. But there is no other team I wanted to play for," said Manning, who turns 36 this month.

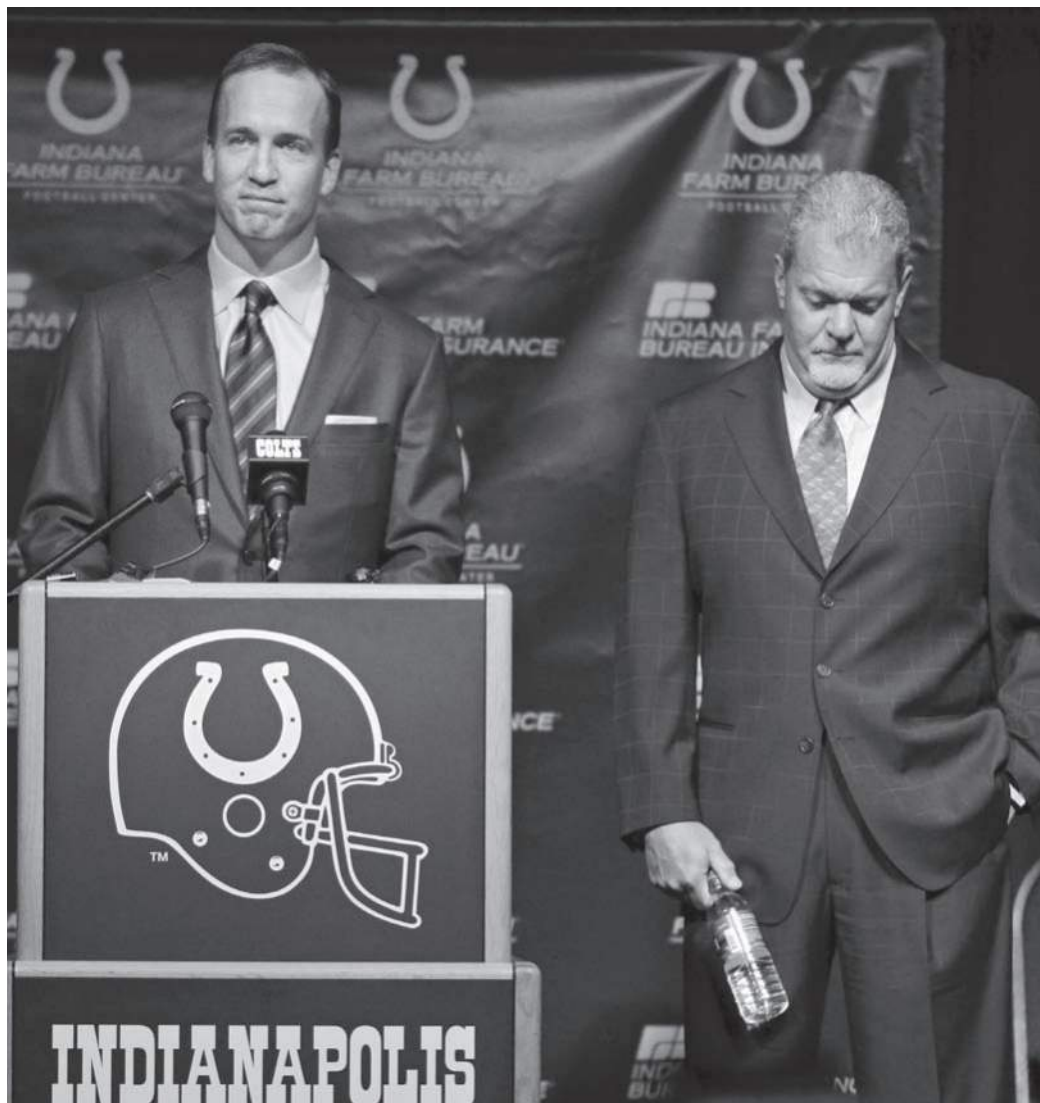
Still, he acknowledged: "We all know that nothing lasts forever. Times change, circumstances change, and that's the reality of playing in the NFL."

Another reality: Manning should command plenty of offers on the open market. It's not very often that teams get a crack at a QB who's thrown for more than 50,000 yards and nearly 400 touchdowns, been picked for 11 Pro Bowls, and been a Super Bowl MVP. Manning's importance to the Colts' success was never more apparent than last season, when their record plummeted to 2-14 without him.

"I have no idea who wants me, what team wants me, how this process works," Manning told a group of reporters in South Florida, where he has a home and flew after the news conference. "I don't know if it's like college recruiting where you go take visits. I mean, this is all so new to me."

Reports of other clubs' interest began emerging a while back, and they'll only intensify now. Because he was released and went on the waiver wire Wednesday, Manning is allowed to negotiate and sign with any club immediately; he does not need to wait until the free-agent period that begins next Tuesday, and said his agent already was taking calls.

"I literally have not had one conversation with anyone about these teams. It's been so hard for me trying to figure out some closure with my situation with



Indianapolis Colts owner Jim Irsay, right, listens as quarterback Peyton Manning speaks during a news conference in Indianapolis, Wednesday, March 7, 2012.

the Colts," Manning said. "I haven't thought about teams, and I don't know who is interested. I really don't."

Reaction poured into Twitter feeds from all around the sports world—not merely from NFL players publicly lobbying for their teams to sign Manning. Dwyane Wade of the NBA's Miami Heat urged Manning to head to that city's Dolphins, while tennis' Andy Roddick, the 2003 U.S. Open champion, observed: "The colts cutting Peyton feels like the north pole kicking out Santa."

That's about right. The stark first sentence of the official team statement read: "The Indianapolis Colts today released quarterback Peyton Manning."

Even if the news first leaked out Tuesday—and had been anticipated for weeks, if not months—it was odd to see those words written about a player so synonymous with the horseshoe helmet that Irsay said Manning's No. 18 will never again be worn by a Colts player.

Fans of various teams can start imagining what Manning might look like in their colors. Picture Joe Montana heading from the 49ers to the Chiefs or Emmitt Smith switching from the Cowboys to the Cardinals.

"For those of us who are so used to him being there day in and day out, it would be a little like (Yankees captain) Derek Jeter changing teams. He really is that iconic guy that represents

the franchise. It's a hackneyed phrase, but he truly is the face of the franchise, and has been," said former Colts vice chairman Bill Polian, who drafted Manning out of Tennessee with the No. 1 overall pick in the 1998 draft and was fired this January. "It will be a little strange not having him there."

That is why Wednesday provided such an awkward and unusual scene for Manning and Irsay. Their NFL lives have been so closely intertwined, yet they stood inches apart in jackets and ties while discussing their separation.

Rarely do star athletes who are not retiring show up at a news conference to let the world know they've been

dumped. And while Manning and Irsay—indeed, all of the NFL—was aware this profitable partnership was due to end now, the emotions showed by both seemed raw and real.

"This has not been easy for Jim," Manning said, "and this has certainly not been easy for me."

Each paused frequently to try to compose himself while speaking during their appearance in a room at the Colts' complex normally reserved for celebratory news conferences, such as the hiring of a new coach or general manager—two other significant steps Irsay took recently as he essentially starts from scratch. The room is lined with banners honoring some of the team's greatest stars, including, of course, Manning himself, flanked by Pro Football Hall of Famers Eric Dickerson and John Mackey.

Indianapolis needed to cut Manning this week to avoid paying him a bonus from the \$90 million, five-year contract he signed in July, although both owner and player insisted the decision was not really about money. The Colts are widely expected to begin moving on by taking Stanford quarterback Andrew Luck with the No. 1 overall pick in April's draft.

Irsay repeatedly used the word "rebuilding" and acknowledged: "We're definitely a few years away."

Manning, Irsay said, "is on the mend to try to resume his career."

Manning hopes to be playing in the NFL at the start of next season.

Still, he said Wednesday: "I'll always be a Colt. I always will be. That'll never change."

When the news conference ended, Manning reached over to shake hands with Irsay, who instead tried to offer a hug, and they wound up settling for pats on the shoulder before walking off together and leaving the room.

Clearly, this was not an easy

adieu for Manning.

Mentioning Colts employees he'll no longer be around, Manning paused to collect himself while noting: "We've got the greatest equipment guys in the world."

"I think about those type of relationships—not necessarily always on the field, and the touchdown throw to win the game. It's the behind the scenes. The laughs. The stories. The times spent together. Those are the memories. Those aren't going away," he said. "Those will be with me for the rest of my life."

Manning will forever be thought of around these parts as the QB who led the Colts to an NFL championship, barking out signals while waving his arms at the line of scrimmage to change a play after reading the defense—something he did as well as anyone.

He'll be remembered, too, for turning a basketball-loving city into a football hotbed that hosted the Super Bowl a month ago.

During that Super Bowl week, the hottest topic of conversation was Peyton Manning, not his younger brother Eli, who wound up leading the New York Giants to the title.

"There will be no other Peyton Manning," Irsay said, adding that he hoped Wednesday's joint appearance would serve to "honor incredible memories and incredible things that he's done for the franchise, for the city, for the state."

Manning started every meaningful game for 13 seasons—227 in a row, including the playoffs—and took Indianapolis from perennial also-ran to one of the NFL's model franchises and the 2007 Super Bowl title.

In the two decades before he arrived in town, the Colts won 116 games, one division title and made the playoffs three times. With Manning taking snaps, the Colts won 150 games, eight division titles, two AFC championships and the franchise's first league championship since moving from Baltimore in 1984.

Indianapolis broke the NFL record for most regular-season wins in a decade (115), and tied Dallas' mark for most consecutive playoff appearances (nine). Manning broke all of the franchise's major career passing records, previously held by Hall of Famer John Unitas.

Unitas, of course, played 17 years for the Colts when they were in Baltimore, then finished his career with one season in San Diego at age 40.

Now it's Manning's turn to move on.

"I want to get back out there and play. I don't feel like everybody will say, 'He has to do this' or 'He has to prove that.' I don't feel that way," he said. "I know how much I love being a quarterback and love football and I want to go play again."

NFLPA says it will do own bounty investigation

WASHINGTON (AP)—The NFL Players Association will do its own investigation of the New Orleans Saints' bounty system and asked the league to help set up interviews with the team's coaches and front-office staff.

In a statement released Wednesday, the union vowed to "vigorously protect the rights of all players."

"If the facts prove that players voluntarily and willingly participated in conduct that jeopardized health and safety, we will work with them and the league to put in place additional safeguards to prevent this in the future," the statement said. "Dangerous play and acts on the field by players intended to injure have no place in football. We must do better to ensure

that this activity is not a part of our game."

There was no mention of possible punishment for players involved.

After the NFL made its investigation public Friday, former Saints defensive coordinator Gregg Williams admitted to running a bounty pool of up to \$50,000 over the past three seasons, rewarding players for knocking targeted opponents out of games. The league now wants to know whether Williams—who recently left the Saints to become defensive coordinator of the St. Louis Rams—ran a similar scheme while a head coach or assistant with the Titans, Redskins, Jaguars and Bills.

It took until Tuesday for cur-

rent Saints head coach Sean Payton and general manager Mickey Loomis to also acknowledge the existence of the bounty system.

"We acknowledge that the violations disclosed by the NFL during their investigation of our club happened under our watch. We take full responsibility," Payton and Loomis said in a joint statement.

Noting those comments, the NFLPA said Wednesday that it "negotiated vigorously to protect our players from coercive actions that compromise health and safety. The current CBA contains detailed rules on what clubs and coaches can and cannot do in terms of practice schedules and places limitations on the amount of contact. These rules include

how clubs and coaches can be punished for violations of those safeguards."

The union asked the NFL to give it "sufficient time" to finish its own inquiry into what happened in New Orleans.

According to the league, "knockouts" were worth \$1,500 and "cart-offs" \$1,000—with payments doubled or tripled for the playoffs. The NFL said the pool amounts reached their height in 2009, the season the Saints won the Super Bowl.

The league said between 22 and 27 defensive players were involved from 2009-11, but it hasn't publicly cited specific players.

Spokesmen for the league and Saints declined to comment Wednesday.

Wizards come from 21 down, top Lakers



WASHINGTON (AP)—Roger Mason led a spirited fourth-quarter comeback with nine points in the period, Kobe Bryant lost his shooting touch down the stretch, and the Washington Wizards rallied from a 21-point, third-quarter deficit Wednesday night to stun the Los Angeles Lakers 106-101.

Mason hit three 3-pointers in the fourth, turning what had been a pro-Lakers scene into an unusually raucous show of home support for a team that's 20 games below .500. The same arena that rocked to "M-V-P!" for Bryant in the first half was bellowing "Beat L.A.!" in the final minute.

Nick Young scored 19 points for the Wizards, who beat the Lakers for the first time since 2006.

Nick Young scored 19 points for the Wizards, who beat the Lakers for the first time since 2006 - a stretch of nine straight losses. Trevor Booker had 18 points and a career-high 17 rebounds, and Kevin Seraphin scored a career-high 14 points on 7-for-8 shooting.

Mason also finished with 14 points, and John Wall had nine assists to help make up for four points on 1-for-8 shooting.

Bryant scored 30, but he went 1 for 10 from the field in the fourth quarter. Pau Gasol had 19 points and 15 rebounds, and Andrew Bynum scored 19 points for the Lakers, who dropped both ends of a road back-to-back.

Mason's 3 at the start of the quarter gave the Wizards their first lead since the early minutes of the game, and another one pushed the lead to six with 4:51 to play. Seraphin's dunk—Washington's 10th of the game—and Young's jumper put the underdogs ahead 104-99 with 43 seconds left.

After a dunk by Gasol, Booker grabbed an offensive rebound on Wall's missed jumper to keep the Lakers at bay. The Wizards made two free throws in the final 15 seconds to help seal the win.

The Wizards were their usual disjointed selves well into the third quarter, mixing dunks with misfired alley-oops and other failed attempts at flash. Jordan Crawford and Young were both 0 for 4 from 3-point range in the first half, and Wall didn't have a point until his dunk with 3:19 remaining in the third.

Young had a classic Wizards blooper in the second quarter, going up for an uncontested dunk only to have the ball slip out of his hands and fly over the backboard and into the rows of fans seated behind the basket.

The score was 76-55 when the Wizards started on a 26-7 run that pulled them within two at the end of the third quarter. Mason started the fourth by hitting a pair of 3s, and fellow

reserve Seraphin twice gave the Washington back the lead after the Lakers had rallied.

Wearing a clear mask to protect his broken nose—he switched from a black one midgame the night before because it wasn't comfortable—Bryant put on a show in the first half. Among the highlights during a second-quarter stretch: a spot-on alley-oop pass to Josh McRoberts, a steal of a pass from Wall that led to a 3-pointer from Derek Fisher, a drive to a crowded paint in which he used his strength to create a three-point play, and a crossover move that embarrassed Crawford and drew oohs and aahs from the fans—even though Bryant then missed the open 3-pointer.

But Bryant, who said the Lakers "played a little tired" in an overtime loss at Detroit the night before, struggled down the stretch, as did his teammates. Los Angeles shot 6 for 21 in the fourth quarter.

Spurs 118, Knicks 105

In San Antonio, Tony Parker scored 32 points as the Spurs dealt the sliding Knicks a third consecutive loss.

Tim Duncan and Manu Ginobili added 17 points apiece in Ginobili's second game back after missing two weeks with a strained stomach muscle. Like the Knicks, the Spurs are finally at full strength again, but are doing a far better job of blending rotations and fitting all their pieces together.

The Knicks have lost six of nine. They bear little resemblance to their Jeremy Lin-inspired resurgence before the All-Star break, and booting Landry Fields from the starting lineup before the game didn't help much.

Anthony led New York with 27 points. Lin had 20.

76ers 103, Celtics 71

In Philadelphia, Evan Turner scored a career-best 26 points, helping the 76ers rout the Celtics to maintain their lead in the Atlantic Division.

Before tip-off, Turner denied a radio report that a mystery problem was causing his inconsistent play. Then Turner went out and proved he's just fine. He shot 11 of 19 and grabbed nine rebounds.

Six Sixers scored in double figures, including Elton Brand (18), Lou Williams (15) and Nik Vucevic (14). Vucevic's 12 rebounds were a high for the rookie. Andre Iguodala had 10 points, eight assists and seven boards.

The Sixers, a surprise contender a month ago, had lost eight of 10 to drop their lead in the division to one game over Boston, which had won five in a row.

Jazz 99, Bobcats 93

In Charlotte, Al Jefferson had 31 points and nine rebounds as the



Washington Wizards power forward Trevor Booker (35) dunks the ball scoring against the Los Angeles Lakers in the third quarter of an NBA basketball game at the Verizon Center in Washington, Wednesday, March 7, 2012.

Jazz controlled the paint, where they outscored the Bobcats 54-36 and outrebounded them 43-34.

Jefferson was 11 of 19 from the field and hit all but one of his 10 foul shots in a dominating inside effort. Paul Millsap scored 16 points while Derrick Favors added 14 points for the Jazz, who won for just the fifth time this season on the road.

The victory helped pull the Jazz back to .500 at 19-19.

Corey Maggette scored 25 points to lead the Bobcats, who failed in their quest to win back-to-back games for the first time this season. It's the third straight 20-point game for Maggette, who's averaging 19.7 points per game over the last 10 games.

Raptors 116, Rockets 98

In Toronto, DeMar DeRozan scored 23 points as the Raptors used a rare offensive outburst to beat the Rockets.

Linus Kleiza added 19 points while Jose Calderon had 17 points and 12 assists for the Raptors, who wrapped up a 2-2 homestand with one of their strongest games of the season. Toronto set season highs in points and shooting percentage (59.2) while overcoming a shaky third quarter by dominating the weary Rockets over the final 12 minutes.

Leandro Barbosa added 15 points and Amir Johnson had 14 for the Raptors.

Chandler Parsons scored 17 points to lead the Rockets, who

have dropped five straight in Toronto, and five in a row overall.

Heat 89, Hawks 86

In Miami, LeBron James had 31 points and 11 rebounds, Dwyane Wade added 18 points and set up Udonis Haslem for an alley-oop dunk with 12 seconds left.

Miami won its 11th straight at home and had to come from 10 points down in the third quarter to extend the streak. Another Heat streak ended—it was Miami's first time since April 6, 2006, without making a 3-pointer, a span that included 455 regular-season games and 60 more in the playoffs.

The Heat were 0 for 10 from beyond the arc.

Josh Smith scored 23 for the Hawks, who were without Joe Johnson and Tracy McGrady, among others.

Timberwolves 106, Trail Blazers 94

In Minneapolis, Wes Johnson scored 19 points to back Kevin Love's 29 points and 16 rebounds for Minnesota.

Johnson went 3 of 4 on 3-pointers and Luke Ridnour added 22 points for the Timberwolves (21-19), who moved into the eighth spot in the Western Conference playoff race. They own the tie-breaker over Houston, which lost earlier Wednesday.

LaMarcus Aldridge scored 22 points and Gerald Wallace had 13 points, nine assists and nine rebounds for the Blazers,

who have lost four of their last five games.

Aldridge went 2 for 3 from the free throw line — his first foul shots in four games — but was badly outplayed by Love for the second straight game. He was held to just five points in the second half.

Thunder 115, Suns 104

In Oklahoma City, Russell Westbrook scored 31 points and James Harden added a career-high 30 off the bench as the Thunder roared back for their 14th straight home win.

Kevin Durant also chipped in 30 points and Serge Ibaka contributed 18 points and a career-high 20 rebounds as the Thunder overcame a 16-point deficit late in the third quarter.

Oklahoma City limited the Suns to two baskets over an 11-minute stretch, outscoring Phoenix 33-9 to eliminate a big deficit and take control.

Marcin Gortat had a career-best 28 points and 11 rebounds to lead Phoenix, which built the largest lead for an opponent this season inside Chesapeake Energy Arena only to watch it disintegrate.

Bulls 106, Bucks 104

In Milwaukee, Derrick Rose drilled a long jumper at the buzzer to win it for the Bulls.

Holding the ball for the last shot in a tie game, Rose pulled up just inside the 3-point line and hit it just as time expired. Rose was mobbed by his teammates near halfcourt, and cheered wildly by a predominantly pro-Bulls crowd.

Rose scored 30 and Joakim Noah added 20 points and 10 rebounds for the Bulls, who have won eight straight.

Ersan Ilyasova had a career-high 32 points and Drew Gooden added a season-high 27 for the Bucks, who were coming off a home win over Philadelphia on Monday.

The Bulls held Milwaukee's Brandon Jennings to 11 points on 4-for-18 shooting. Jennings had scored 27-plus points in his previous three games coming into Wednesday.

Nets 101, Clippers 100

In Newark, Jordan Farmar hit a 3-pointer from the right wing with 0.2 seconds left and the Nets squandered an 18-point, second-half lead before beating the Clippers.

Deron Williams had 21 points and picked up his 10th assist with a pass to Farmar as the Nets won the chippy contest that featured five technical fouls.

Chris Paul put the Clippers ahead for the first time since the opening minutes when he made two free throws with 8.9 seconds to play after being fouled 20 feet from the basket. Williams nearly lost the ball on the Nets' first inbounds play and the ball went out of bounds near halfcourt. Williams took

the ensuing inbounds pass from Farmar and returned the ball for the game-winning shot.

Cavaliers 100, Nuggets 99

In Denver, Kyrie Irving hit a driving layup with 4 seconds left to cap a seesaw battle in the final minutes. Irving scored 10 of his 18 points in the fourth quarter, all in the last 2:36 of the game, and Antawn Jamison had 33 to help the Cavaliers snap a six-game skid.

Al Harrington had 22 points and Andre Miller 16 for the Nuggets, whose four-game win streak ended.

Neither team could pull away in the fourth quarter. Denver scored the first six points to go ahead 78-76 and the lead changed hands nine times in the final 2:36, with the point guards staging a personal duel down the stretch.

Ty Lawson had five of his 18 points to give Denver a 95-94 lead and Irving had two three-point plays and a driving layup to put Cleveland up 98-97 with 24 seconds left.

He saved his best for the final seconds.

Kings 99, Hornets 98

In Sacramento, John Salmons made the go-ahead layup with 6.8 seconds left, Marcus Thornton scored 25 points, and the Kings snapped a four-game losing streak.

The Hornets led by one and inbounded with 8.9 seconds left, but Isaiah Thomas stole Trevor Ariza's pass and quickly spotted Salmons cutting to the basket for a left-handed layup.

Jarrett Jack had 25 points and Ariza 20 for the Hornets, who lost their third straight and fifth in six games. Chris Kaman had 18 points, 11 rebounds and eight assists.

Tyreke Evans had 13 points for the Kings, who had dropped 10 of their previous 12 games. Jason Thompson, Salmons and Thomas all had 12 points, and Jimmer Fredette scored 11.

Grizzlies 110, Warriors 92

In Oakland, Rudy Gay had 26 points, 12 rebounds and five assists to lead the Grizzlies to their fifth straight victory.

Marc Gasol added 17 points and 12 rebounds and Marreese Speights scored 18 points to pace the hot-starting and hard-closing Grizzlies, who sprinted to a 21-4 lead, lost it, then built back a 21-point lead late. Memphis has won nine of its last 10 games and is gaining momentum for the second straight season in the deep Western Conference.

Monta Ellis had 16 points and a hobbled Stephen Curry came off the bench to score 15 points for a Warriors team that just returned home from a solid 3-3 road trip only to turn in another perplexing performance.

McIlroy a No. 1 that gets no argument



PALM BEACH GARDENS, Fla.

(AP)—Rory McIlroy made quite a first impression in America, even when he lost.

He made his pro debut on American soil in the Arizona desert at the 2009 Match Play Championship. As a 19-year-old, McIlroy advanced to the quarterfinals and threw everything he had at Geoff Ogilvy until losing on the 17th hole.

Ogilvy, who went on to win his third World Golf Championship that week, recalls riding back to the clubhouse with his caddie, Allistair "Squirrel" Matheson, both of them realizing that the landscape was about to change.

"I played so good that day," Ogilvy said Sunday morning from his home in California. "I birdied 15, 16 and 17 and halved all three holes. We were way under par that day. Both Squirrel and I said, 'This guy is going to be unbelievable.' And then Squirrel said, 'If you want to be No. 1, you're going to have to be better than this guy.' Because not many people in the world will be better than that."

Never mind that Tiger Woods was No. 1 in the world by miles, and would go on to win seven times that year.

There was something special about this freckled-face kid with brown curls spilling out from

under his cap, who played the game with a delightful mixture of joy and reckless abandon.

"Since that first day I saw him play, he was a level above us," Ogilvy said.

Their premonition came true when McIlroy won the Honda Classic in fashion befitting the No. 1 player in the world.

He didn't flinch when Woods went birdie-eagle for a 62, his best final round ever, and nearly nine shots better than the average score Sunday. McIlroy could hear the roar from a mile away, gathered himself and then rolled in a birdie putt. He followed with three par saves over the last five holes for a two-shot victory, elevating him to No. 1 in the world.

McIlroy became the 16th player to become No. 1, ending the 40-week reign of Luke Donald, who sent a congratulatory message on Twitter by telling Boy Wonder, "Enjoy the view."

McIlroy is so unbeatable right now he won a point off tennis star Maria Sharapova hours later. At Madison Square Garden on Monday night to cheer on girlfriend Caroline Wozniacki in an exhibition match, he was invited onto the court with Wozniacki a game from losing. In jeans and a sweater, McIlroy showed off a one-handed backhand, and Sharapova hit his lob wide.

Asked if he was surprised, McIlroy joked: "I've won a few off Caroline."

McIlroy is the second-youngest player to be No. 1 in the world ranking - Woods was 21 when he first reached the top after the U.S. Open in 1997. And it should be noted that Woods only stayed at No. 1 for one measly week. After trading places with Ernie Els, Greg Norman and eventually David Duval, Woods finally established himself as the best by staying at No. 1 for more than five years.

It's too early to call McIlroy the next Tiger.

Even though there are similarities in their age, it is worth pointing out their differences.

McIlroy reached No. 1 in his 115th tournament that count toward the ranking; Woods reached the top in his 21st tournament.

McIlroy won for the fifth time in his career, including a U.S. Open he won at Congressional by eight shots with a record score (268). When Woods played 115 tournaments, he already had won five majors and 32 tournaments around the world.

Even as Woods appears to be getting closer to regaining full form, his gallery was double the size of the crowd following McIlroy in the final round, and not just because Woods has made

south Florida his new home. Woods remains compelling. No one has ever won more majors so quickly, and there remains interest whether he can make it all the way back.

Four players have been No. 1 since Woods abdicated his throne 16 months ago—Lee Westwood, Martin Kaymer, Luke Donald and now McIlroy. The difference is that McIlroy is so young, and already has accomplished so much.

He might only have five wins, but three were in the United States, including a major.

Not everyone accepted Westwood as the world's No. 1 player during his two stints that covered 22 weeks because he never won a major. There is no correlation between No. 1 and winning majors, it only seemed that way because Woods was at the top for so long and had won

14 majors before he turned 33.

That's why Donald, despite being No. 1 longer than anyone besides Woods in the last 15 years, was slow to gain proper respect. It took him winning the money titles on two tours before Donald got his due.

Kaymer had won a PGA Championship, yet remained an enigma.

With McIlroy, there is no debate.

"He's got a game that people think is world No. 1," three-time major champion Padraig Harrington said. "That's why nobody is going to have any complaints about Rory being world No. 1. He won a major at a young age. He's got the game. Yeah, you can compare him with Tiger. He's still got a lot to do. And there's no doubt that Tiger's 14 majors are very impressive."

"But if you're going to win a lot of majors, you've got to start winning them early," Harrington said. "At 22 years of age, the world No. 1, a major in the bank, he's going to play a lot of majors where he'll be the favorite."

Harrington won his first major at Carnoustie in 2007, when McIlroy was an 18-year-old amateur who played bogey-free in the opening round for a 68 and went on to be the low amateur. At the trophy presentation that day, Harrington said he was happy to get his major before this kid from Northern Ireland started winning one.

"There's very few players as good as him at his age out there winning tournaments," Harrington said. "There are guys with potential, but he's already delivered. And he has a good balance in his life. He doesn't look like a guy who is going to burn out. He looks like he's going to be here for a while."

Yankee GM's accused stalker may talk to grand jury



NEW YORK

(AP)—A woman charged with extorting \$6,000 from New York Yankees general manager Brian Cashman may testify next week before a grand jury weighing the case, her lawyer said Wednesday as a judge declined to reduce the woman's \$300,000 bond.

Louise Neathway, who denies allegations of threatening to damage Cashman's reputation to get him to pay her,

held her head high during a brief Manhattan court appearance. Prosecutors set a March 15 date for Neathway to appear after her lawyer said she might want to testify before the grand jury.

Cashman spokesman Chris Giglio declined to comment on the case, including whether Cashman himself has appeared before the grand jury.

The British-born Neathway, who also goes by Louise

Meanwell, deluged Cashman with calls and text messages, asked him to pay for a \$15,000-plus medical procedure and threatened to contact the press and his family with damaging claims if he didn't comply, according to a court complaint. In response, he put \$6,000 into two of her bank accounts Jan. 18 and tried again to extricate himself, but she instead demanded more money for operations, the complaint said.

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Yamagishi is Amigo Golf Club's February Ace

By **WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND**
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REPORTER



Doll Yamagishi's consistency earned her the Amigo Golf Club's February Ace after the conclusion of the group's monthly events at the Kingfisher Golf Links. Yamagishi posted a low gross

score of 85 that worked into a 61 net tally during the club's February qualifying round held back on Feb. 12. She then scratched a raw 88 in the Ace of the Month event held last Feb. 26 that resulted in a 64 net card, which left her with a combined net total of 125. Sheralyn Jones finished second place after the dual event.

Jones settled for an 86 (70-net) gross tally in the qualifier round and finished the month with a raw 83 (63-net) and finished 12-strokes behind Yamagishi with a total net count of 137. Felix Sasamoto and Diding Hocog finished tied for third place overall with identical net totals of 139. A total of 14 members

showed up for February's qualifying round, where John Matsumoto took second chair with a 79 gross score that adjusted to a 62 net count, while Joe Saban Jr. finished tied for third place with Sasamoto after the qualifier. Sablan Jr. carded an 83 gross figure to Sasamoto's 85, however they ended up tied after the

handicap adjustment with 66 net totals. Then in the Ace of the Month affair, Sasamoto gross-carded a 92 that adjusted to a 73 that left him with an over net score of 139. Hocog qualified with a raw 92 that worked out into a net figure of 68 that went with her 95 gross count in the second event that was modified into a 71 for an overall net result of 139. Ten golfers turned out for February's Ace of the Month round. Other results include Sablan Jr., finishing tied with Ben Jones with 147 net totals; Terry Guerrero finished with an overall net count of 149, and Lorraine Babauta finished both events with a combined net count of 153. Amigo Golf Club's March qualifier is slated for this Sunday, March 11, at the Kingfisher Golf Links. The Ace of the Month event is scheduled for Sunday, March 25.

Tag Team 8-Ball tourney concludes Saturday

By **WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND**
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REPORTER



The 19th Hole Bar & Grill's Islander Tag Team 8-Ball tournament concludes on Saturday night starting at 7pm. A three-way tiebreaker series between Oneshot's Ron Chisato and Edward Suzuki, IDC's Norman Tenorio and Quinton Ngirarios, and Tasi's Oscar Sablan and Ed Blas will take place to determine the second and third

place prize winners. All three teams finished the series with 28 points. D2Pats' Pat Taitano and Pat Cepeda already locked up first place and won its final match via forfeit against Y-Not on Saturday. However, the gifted win did not really affect the previous standings as the alpha duo boasted a healthy double-digit lead over the field coming into the final round last weekend; D2Pats finished the event series with 35 points. The awards presentation will take place following Saturday's

tiebreaker matches. In addition, registration is now open for an encore Islander Tag Team 8-Ball series, which is set to start up on Saturday, March 17 and 18, starting nightly at 7pm. Opening racks break at 7:30pm and 9:30pm. Organizers are aiming to fill eight teams and slots are still available. The entrance fee is \$20 per team and cash prizes go to the top place finishers. Like the Saipan Billiards Association Budweiser Open 8-Ball

League, the Islander Tag Team Tournament follows official BCA rules except that sinking the 8-ball on the break is a win. Each team plays two singles and one doubles match every week. Doubles players continue shooting until they miss or scratch; players don't alternate shots. Scoring is determined by total games won. If, for instance, a team wins two games and its opponent wins one, two points are scored for the team and one point goes to the opponent. Call Rose Phillips at 288-3913 or Ken Phillips at 288-5929 for more information.

MIEKO

From Page 32

RA, anything can happen," added Carey, who timed in at 2:58:27 in the 2011 XTERRA Guam to beat United Kingdom pro Daz Parker (3:10:11) and Guam's Kelly Dawes (4:01:56). Guam will be the first stop of XTERRA participants this month. Next weekend, Bucher, former XTERRA Saipan

champion Olivier Marceau, and other pros will head to Cebu for XTERRA Philippines. Then on March 24, Bucher and company will be here for the much anticipated XTERRA Saipan. Some of the pros will stay on Saipan for another week for the Tagaman Triathlon. Challenging Marceau for the men's crown in Guam are U.K.'s Graham Wadsworth and Cedric Lassonde, Australia's Ben Allen, Colorado's

Branden Rakita, Japan's Takahiro Ogasawara, and the Philippines' Arlan Macasieb. The U.K.'s Sam Gardner won last year, but will miss this weekend's race. Over 150 are doing the individual race that will start at 7am. XTERRA Guam, which is now a championship race and a qualifier for XTERRA World, will have a 1.5-kilometer swim in the waters off Piti, a 31-Km MTB race up to Nimitz Hill,

Mt. Alutom and then down to Mannengon Hills all the way to transition point at Port Authority Beach, and a 8.2-Km trail run through jungle rivers and slippery waterfalls. A total of \$15,000 cash prizes await the Top 7 pro finishers with the champion in the men's and women's division receiving \$2,200 each; \$1,700 to the runners-up; \$1,200 to third; \$800 to fourth; \$500 to fifth; \$400 to sixth; and \$300 to seventh.

TOUGH

From Page 32

overtime win over Crystal Pure/Mekeni Abe, while Blue Haus earned a 4-1 slate, following a 58-55 triumph over Hite Beer. The victory was the second in a row for Blue Haus, which incidentally had an unfinished business with the Sunrisers, leading their rained-out game last month, 69-53, with a full quarter to go in the match. The inaugural champion took the three-point win after Hite missed four successive free throws in the closing seconds of the match. Down by only three, 55-58, after Ben Lisua canned a triple from the left key, with 45 seconds, Hite was still in the game after Blue Haus' Badong Camacho missed a short jumper. Jeong Park grabbed the rebound and threw a pitch to the streaking Lisua. Lisua caught the ball underneath the basket with only one defender chasing him, but instead of going for a quick two, he went to the 3-point area,

pulled up for a shot and missed. Ivan Devero then collared the offensive board and also attempted a triple, but faltered, too. Then for the third time, Dexter Tenorio went for a triple from the top key and tried to draw contact from Camacho. Tenorio's shot hit nothing but air and there was a lull after the miss shot, as he was asking officials for a foul. None was called, but Hite kept possession as Camacho partially blocked the shot. Hite then had 4.5 seconds to pull up for a game-tying triple, but Tenorio had another airball after again trying to get a foul from his defender and time expired. Besides going 0-for-4 from downtown in the closing minutes, Hite also went 3-for-5 at the stripe in the last three minutes to falter on its repeated comeback bids. Junar Guiab top-scored for Blue Haus with 11, while Elmer Esdreton and Leo Itaas combined for 19, including eight crucial points in the fourth canto to frustrate Hite. Devero paced Hite with 14,

but was a non-factor in the homestretch, as he sat out midway in the fourth and was already cold when he returned to the game. Ben Lisua added 13, but was also at the bench early in the fourth, along with Lauron, who came back midway in the final canto, but could not get the ball inside. Hite clearly had the advantage in the paint with Lauron, Lisua, Zack Diaz, and Park on its roster, but failed to capitalize, while the much smaller Blue Haus pushed up the tempo of the game to gain control late in the first period. In the first game of the night, Jawn Joyner, who was held to five points in regulation, drilled 12 markers in the extra 10 minutes to lift the Sunrisers to their fifth win. Joyner nailed the Sunrisers' first five points in the first overtime to keep his team in the lead until Crystal Clear's Quincy Johnson hit a trey in the closing seconds to force a second extension. Earlier in regulation, Crystal Clear also connected on a late

triple, courtesy of J.R. Cadag, to send the game in overtime. In the second overtime, Joyner continued to take charge, scoring eight more points, including four free throws to finally thwart Crystal Clear. **First Game** **Sunrisers 78** – Joyner 18, Jos. Sablan 16, Basa 15, Lizama 11, Manibusan 6, Mendez 6, Peters 4. **Crystal Pure/Mekeni Abe 75** – Bernardo 27, Mendoza 13, Cruz 8, Cadag 7, Miranda 4, Johnson 3, Diyco 2, Danipog 2, Lerio 1. **Scoring by quarters:** 12-12, 23-27, 44-40, 58-58, 68-68, 78-75. **Second Game** **Blue Haus 58** – Guiab 11, Esdreton 10, Itaas 9, Fernandez 9, Aquino 9, Tania 6, Camacho 2, Tumaquip 2. **Hite Beer 55** – Devero 14, Lisua 13, Lauron 11, Babauta 6, Tenorio 3, Palacios 2, Park 2. **Scoring by quarters:** 18-17, 32-24, 45-40, 58-55.

SHUTOUT

From Page 32

win over MP United Blue. After a sluggish game in the first half where Matansa only scored one goal, Sean Perez became unstoppable in the second, making four goals in the final 45 minutes of the match. Perez also recorded Matansa's first goal, while Jeong Wook Hwang scored the last in the second half. **Paire 12, Tan Holdings FC 0** In the last game in the boys U15, Paire whipped Tan Holdings FC. Hunter Jewell and Scott Kim teamed up in Paire's win as they tallied three goals each. Jewell scored in the 28th, 38th, and 43rd minute, while Kim found the back of the net in the 20th minute, 33rd, and 48th. Joel Fruit also helped Paire's cause with his twin goals, while Joel Jang, John Auther, Won Jun Kim, and Billy Hinson added one apiece.

BOYS U18 MP United 4, Matansa 0

In the second game in the boys U18, Clay McCullough-Stearns converted two goals to lift MP United to an easy victory over Matansa. McCullough-Stearns made his twin goals in the first half, drilling his first eight minutes after Joyner put MP United in the scoreboard in the 10th minute. McCullough-Stearns had his second goal in the 32nd minute and two minutes later, Jake Lee also eluded his defenders to give MP United's 4-0 halftime lead.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	23	17	.575	—
Boston	20	18	.526	2
New York	18	21	.462	4 1/2
Toronto	13	26	.333	9 1/2
New Jersey	13	27	.325	10

Southeast Division

Miami	30	9	.769	—
Orlando	25	15	.625	5 1/2
Atlanta	23	16	.590	7
Washington	9	29	.237	20 1/2
Charlotte	5	32	.135	24

Central Division

Chicago	33	8	.805	—
Indiana	23	14	.622	8
Milwaukee	15	24	.385	17
Cleveland	14	23	.378	17
Detroit	13	26	.333	19

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

San Antonio	26	12	.684	—
Memphis	23	15	.605	3
Dallas	23	17	.575	4
Houston	21	19	.525	6
New Orleans	9	30	.231	17 1/2

Northwest Division

Oklahoma City	31	8	.795	—
Denver	22	18	.550	9 1/2
Minnesota	21	19	.525	10 1/2
Utah	19	19	.500	11 1/2
Portland	19	20	.487	12

Pacific Division

L.A. Clippers	22	15	.595	—
L.A. Lakers	23	16	.590	—
Phoenix	17	21	.447	5 1/2
Golden State	15	21	.417	6 1/2
Sacramento	13	26	.333	10

Yesterday's Games

Utah 99, Charlotte 93

Toronto 116, Houston 98

Washington 106, L.A. Lakers 101

Philadelphia 103, Boston 71

Miami 89, Atlanta 86

Oklahoma City 115, Phoenix 104

Minnesota 106, Portland 94

Chicago 106, Milwaukee 104

New Jersey 101, L.A. Clippers 100

San Antonio 118, New York 105

Cleveland 100, Denver 99

Sacramento 99, New Orleans 98

Memphis 110, Golden State 92

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MISO

From Page 32

and the Knights of Mount Carmel School. Due to ineligible players participating in a recent pairing between MHS and KHS back

on Wednesday, Feb. 29, MHS forfeited its win and settled for the fourth ranking. In any case, the six teams will exhibit an eight-team bracket format with the Top 2 seeds receiving a first round bye. The opening round and upper bracket matches held

thereafter, including the finals will be played under 10-minute quarters with the clock being stopped upon each whistle; lower bracket matches will be played under eight-minute quarters. Today's curtain raiser features MHS taking on GCA

followed by THS challenging MCS at noon. The winner of Game 1 then must go through SSSHS, while Game 2's winner faces KHS. Then a lower bracket match finishes off the day. The upper bracket semifinals kick off tomorrow's action as the rest fight to survive.

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Participants in the full and ultra marathon leave the starting line of last Saturday's 7th Saipan Marathon.



Runners in the 10K race head out to the course.



The last wave of 10K runners leave Micro Beach.



Former Olympian Eric Wainaina Wahinya of Kenya, second left, poses with Saipan runners.



Three Japanese runners cross the finish line together.



A runner cruises along Beach Road.



The CNMI's Daniel Calvo, third left, poses with off-island runners before the race starts.



Sixty-two-year-old Brent Weigner nears the finish line of the marathon.



Eighty-year-old Teruko Matsuda celebrates her 10K finish.



Half marathon runner-up Ronald Villafria crosses the finish line.

SPORTS
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Activity Schedule for March 9, 2012

8:00 AM to 12:00 PM: Morning practices

2012 Tan Holdings Doubles Badminton Tournament

Games start at 6:00 PM

COPSSA Basketball Championship

Games start at 3:00 PM

There are no scheduled games.

SAIPAN SOCCER SCHOOL

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**Bidding begins
for 4-time
MVP Peyton's
next place**
PAGE 31

Saipan Tribune Sports

**Wizards
come from
21 down,
top Lakers**
PAGE 32



36 FRIDAY, MARCH 9, 2012

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Mieko joins 12 pros in XTERRA Guam



Mieko Carey, seen here heading to the bike-run transition area in last month's Enticer 2, will defend her title in tomorrow's XTERRA Guam Championship.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Two-time champion Mieko Carey will go for her third XTERRA Guam crown against a tough field tomorrow.

Carey, who won in 2008 and last year, will be defending the women's championship against six-time XTERRA Saipan champion Renata Bucher of

Switzerland, 2011 XTERRA Saipan runner-up Carina Wasle of Austria, British pro and XTERRA World veteran Jacqui Slack, and inaugural

XTERRA Saipan champion Jamie Whitmore.

"It is a tough competition, but I am excited to race against four women's pros and nine men in my first XTERRA race this year," Carey said, who arrived in Guam last Wednesday. "It will be fun time again."

"I rode the bike course yesterday. It was super dry, but this morning it was raining and they said there may be monsoon this weekend. Again, this is XTER-

See MIEKO on Page 34

Tough wins for Blue Haus, Sunrisers

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Defending champion Blue Haus and the Sunrisers kept the Top 2 spots in the team standings in the 2nd Domino Lux International Fraternity/Miller Lite Basketball Invitational Friendship League after slipping past separate foes last Wednesday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

The Sunrisers played in the curtain-raiser and improved to a 5-0 record after a 78-75 double

See TOUGH on Page 34

Blue Haus' Jomary Tumaquip dribbles past Hite Beer's Zack Diaz during the third quarter of their game in the DLX/Miller Lite caging last Wednesday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Shutout victories in youth league opening



A Matansa striker goes for a kick during the first half of their game against MP United Blue during the opening week of the boys U15 youth league last Saturday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



Shutout wins were the theme in the opening week of the U15 and U18 games in the 2012 NMIFA Youth Spring League

Five of the seven matches played had winning teams blanking their respective foes to start their campaigns this season on a high note.

In the boys U15 division, defending champion MP United Silver crushed Shirley's Football Club last Saturday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field, 15-0. John Taisacan had a hat-trick in the season-opening game, while Ryota Ito, Brian Lee, Jehn Joyner, and Greg Sablan chipped in two goals apiece, while Daniel Lim, Enrico Del Rosario, and Julian Pellegrino contributed one each.

**Matansa 6,
MP United Blue 0**
Matansa also nailed a shutout
See SHUTOUT on Page 34

MISO boys caging playoffs this weekend

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER



The 2012 Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization's high school boys basketball playoffs tip off at 10am today at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

Five games are listed on the itinerary with necessary breaks held in between games; today's final pairing is slated for 5pm.

The double-elimination post-season then concludes tomorrow at MHS with another five games starting at 8am with the championship taking place at 1pm. Organizers are prepared to

feature an extra finals rematch, if needed.

The competing field features top-ranked Saipan Southern High School Manta Rays, the Kagman High School Ayuyus, visiting Tinian High School, the MHS Dolphins, the Grace Christian Academy Eagles,

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WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

Grace Cristian Academy's Angelo Salas pops an open jump shot against Saipan Southern High School in their MISO boys basketball matchup held earlier in the regular season at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.